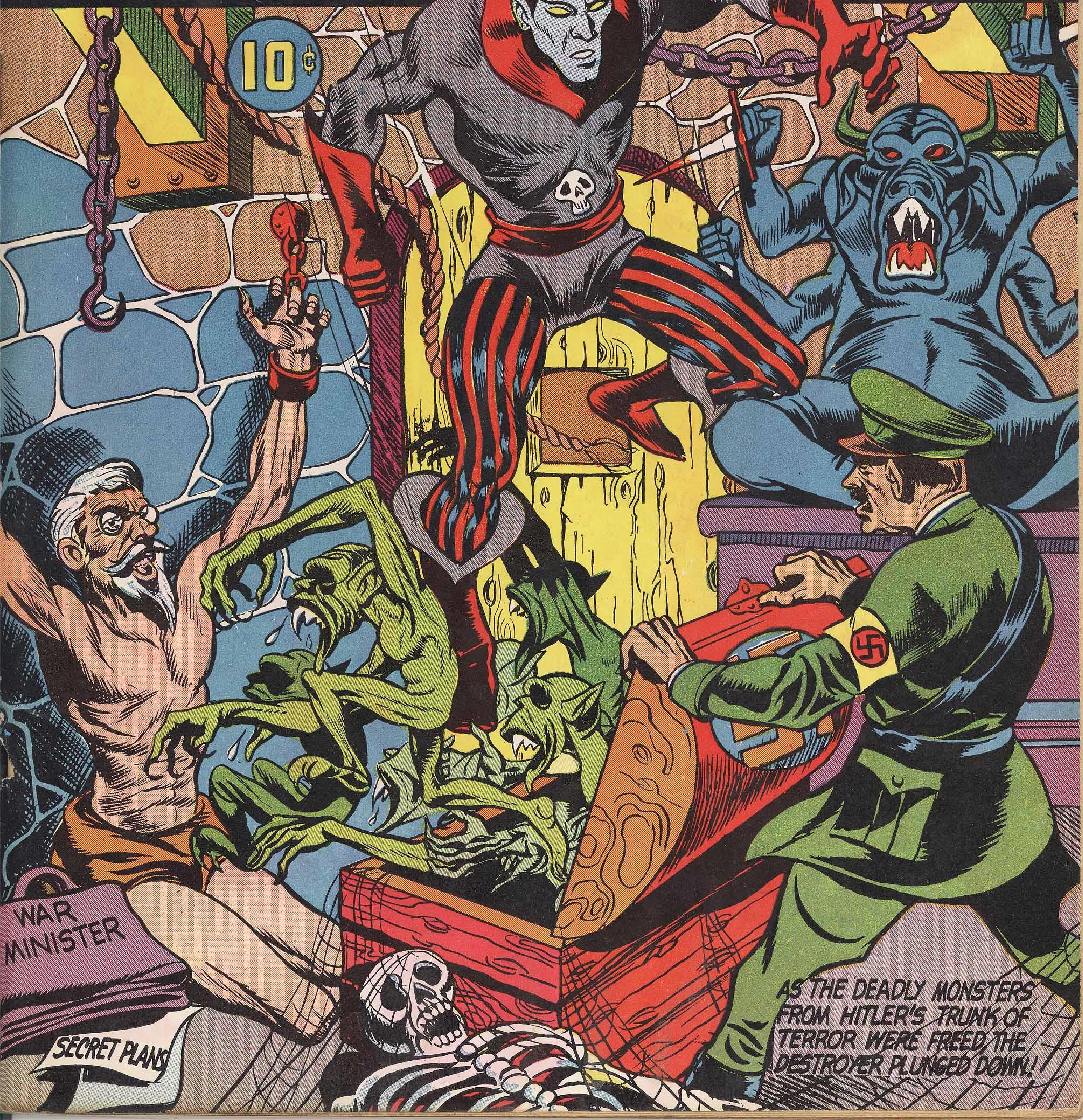
MYSTIC COMICS

NO. 7

DECEMBER

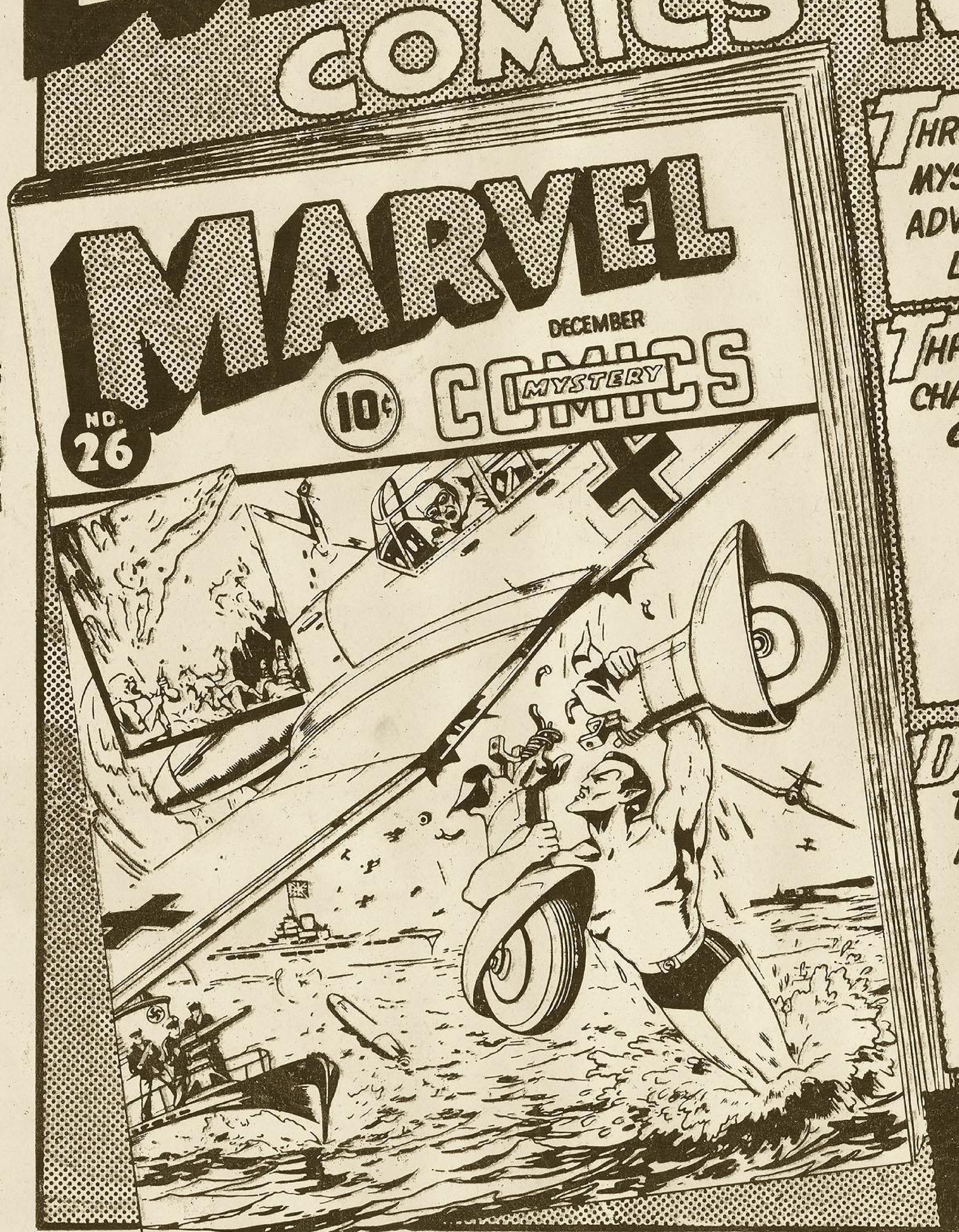
STARRING
The DESTROYER


10¢
WAR MINISTER
SECRET PLANS

AS THE DEADLY MONSTERS FROM HITLER'S TRUNK OF TERROR WERE FREED THE DESTROYER PLUNGED DOWN!

As New and Exciting
AS TODAY'S NEWS!

MARVEL
COMICS No. 26!



THRILLING TALES OF MYSTERY AND SMASHING ADVENTURE WHICH NEVER LET YOU DOWN!!

THRILL TO SUCH FAMOUS CHARACTERS AS---
The HUMAN TORCH
SUB-MARINER
TERRY VANCE
VISION
ANGEL
and others!

DON'T MISS THE HUMAN TORCH'S MOST DANGEROUS ADVENTURE AS HE AGAIN MATCHES WITS WITH THE EVIL PARROT, MASTER OF CRIME, IN--"The PARROT RETURNS"!

GET YOUR COPY TODAY!!

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The DESTROYER

Only the mighty *DESTROYER* stood between the fiendish Nazi hordes and their terrible plan for world conquest! And only the *DESTROYER* dared to challenge the entire armed might of the murderous Nazi military machine! But could even the powerful Destroyer survive the deadly thrusts of the Nazi killer, *HERR SIN* or is he doomed to perish by Herr Sin's terrifying creation – *THE MACHINE OF DEATH!!*
An AL AVISON + STAN LEE Feature Thriller –
A loud explosion tears thru the night air in a field in Nazi Germany...
BOOM
When the smoke clears, three figures inspect the wreckage.
Ach, Herr Sin your death machine is goot. Very goot!
1.

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW IT WILL WORK ON THE ENGLISH SHIPS?
AHA, I WILL SHOW YOU!
COME, FOLLOW ME.!
The NAZI OFFICERS ARE LED TO A RADIO CONTROLLED AIRPLANE...
THIS IS A LARGE MODEL OF MY PLANE. THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. UND NOW I VILL DEMONSTRATE HOW I CAN SINK AN ENGLISH SHIP! VATCH!!!
ACH, IT ISS UNBELIEVABLE!
The DEADLY EXPERIMENT BEGINS.
HERE VE GO! WITHIN TEN MINUTES A BRITISH SHIP VILL BE SUNK, OR MY NAME ISS NOT HERR VILHELM VON SIN!
AHA, IT ISS NOW OVER DE ENGLISH CHANNEL!
ON AN ENGLISH WARSHIP...
LOOK! A NAZI PLANE!
DON'T WORRY. ONE LONE NAZI WON'T DARE TO ATTACK OUR SHIP! NOT WITH ALL THESE POM-POM GUNS READY FOR ACTION!
AHA, DER ISS A BUZZ FROM DER PLANE. DAT MEANS A SHIP ISS NEARBY! NOW ALL I HAFF TO DO ISS TURN DISS SVITCH UND DER PLANE'S MAGNET VILL DRAW IT RIGHT INTO DER BOAT, TORPEDO AND ALL!!!
DER, I DID IT! NOW IN VON MINUTE THE ENGLISH SHIP VILL DRAW IT RIGHT INTO DER BOAT, TORPEDO AND ALL!

HERR SIN'S PLANE BEGINS HIS TERRIBLE MISSION!
WHY -- THERE'S NOBODY IN THE PLANE - IT - IT'S FLYING ITSELF!
THE ANTI - AIR-CRAFT CREW FIRES FEVERISHLY AT THE DEATH LADEN PLANE!
LOOK! THAT FOOL IS DIVING RIGHT INTO US!
IF HE EVER HITS US HE'LL KILL HIMSELF AND BLOW UP THE SHIP WITH HIS TORPEDO!
CRASH
THE SHELLS DON'T STOP IT! WE'RE DONE FOR!
AH, I HEARD IT! THE SHIP VAS HIT! IT ISS DESTROYED! MIT DISS INVENTION UFF OURS, NOTHING CAN STOP DER FUEHRER!
PARDON, HERR SIN, BUT DER ISS VUN MAN TO BE LOOKED OUT FOR!
DER DESTROYER!
DER DESTROYER?? VY, I VILL VIPE HIM OUT JUST LIKE I VIPED OUT DOT ENGLISH SHIP! HE ISS GOING TO BE MY NEXT VICTIM, YOU CAN BE SURE UFF DOT!

BUT NOW LET US TURN TO BERLIN, WHERE WE FIND THE ONE MAN WHOM VILHELM VON SIN HAS NEED TO FEAR -- KEEN MARLOWE, THE MIGHTY *DESTROYER*!
ACH, MARTHA, IF ONLY VE HAD A LITTLE FOOD TO EAT!
HUSH, ERIC! DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOU MIGHT BE KILLED FOR SAYING YOU ARE HUNGRY?
I HEARD YOU!
PLEASE- PLEASE DO NOT HARM US! VE MEANT NO HARM - VE ARE NOT REALLY HUNGRY - HONEST!
DON'T BE AFRAID, I'M THE *DESTROYER*, AND I WANT TO HELP YOU, NOT HURT YOU!
YOU TWO GO INTO THAT BUILDING AND GO INTO THE SECOND FLOOR ROOM AND WAIT THERE - I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE HUNGRY VERY MUCH LONGER.
SUDDENLY, SOME PASSING STORM TROOPERS SIGHT THE DESTROYER.
LOOK, MEN! DER *DESTROYER*!
COME, DER ISS A REWARD OF A MILLION MARKS FOR DER VUN WHO KILLS HIM!
THE DESTROYER FIGHTS IN THE MANNER WHICH HAS MADE HIM THE MOST FEARED MAN IN NAZI GERMANY...
TA TA, MUSTN'T BE TOO HASTY!
KILL HIM- OOOFF!
NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF YOUR PLAYMATES!
THE LAST COWARDLY TROOPER RACES AWAY...
HA HA, GO ON, RUN BACK TO ADOLF - HA HA!
ACH DU LIEBER - LET ME OUT OF HERE!

MEATS
VEGETABL
AND NOW TO SEE ABOUT GETTING SOME FOOD!
HEY, HOW ABOUT SOME SERVICE HERE?
JA, RIGHT AVAY SIR!
IF YOU HAFFN'T A FOOD STAMP YOU CAN'T HAFF FOOD! YOU'LL HAFF TO GO HUNGRY! YOU -- *HIMMEL! DER DESTROYER!*
WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT FOOD? I HAVEN'T A STAMP!
SHREDDED TWEET
HERE - HERE - TAKE DISS - LOTS OF FOOD - DON'T DESTROY MY STORE - I'LL GIFF YOU LOTS OF FOOD! PLEASE DON'T HARM ME!
THANKS VERY MUCH!
BUT IF YOU EVER REFUSE TO GIVE ANY HUNGRY MAN FOOD, YOU HAVE TO ANSWER DIRECTLY TO ME!
Y-Y-YES! SURE! DANK YOU SO MUCH!
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A MOMENT LATER...
LOOK, MARTHA - FOOD!
COMPLIMENTS OF THE *DESTROYER!*
ACH, IT ISS DOT DESTROYER WHO GOT IT -- *BLESS HIM!*
the MARK OF THE *DESTROYER.*
YES, MARTHA, WE, AS WELL AS ALL THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY OWE THE DESTROYER MORE THAN WE CAN EVER REPAY!

BUT LET US TURN ONCE AGAIN TO HERR SIN, WHOM WE FIND ON THE COAST, SCANNING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL LIKE A GREAT VULTURE, WAITING FOR HIS PREY.....
HA, IT VILL BE ALONG SOON, DER BIGGEST AND NEWEST ENGLISH BATTLE-SHIP - AND MY LITTLE PLANE VILL BLOW IT UP AS THOUGH IT IS MADE OF PAPER!
LOOK! SHE COMES! DER SHIP IS COMING.
VOT ISS? WHO ISS DESE?
There IS A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION-
WHO ARE YOU? SPEAK UP!
OH! WE'RE SORRY. WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT ANYBODY WAS HERE!
BUT THE NAZIS DON'T REALIZE THAT KEEN MARLOWE IS BETTER KNOWN TO ALL GERMANY AS THE MIGHTY DESTROYER!!!
WHY WE'RE JUST TWO HIKERS. WE THOUGHT WE'D COME UP HERE TO LOOK AT THE SCENERY!
YES, WE'RE JUST TAKING A WALK. MY NAME IS FLORENCE VON BANGER, AND THIS IS HERR KEEN MARLOWE.
VELL, BEING YOU ARE HERE YOU MIGHT AS VELL VATCH VOT VE ARE GOING TO DO. HA HA, IT VILL BE VERY INTERESTING!
WHY, THANK YOU!
AND SO KEEN AND FLORENCE WATCH THE APPROACH OF THE BRITISH DREADNAUGHT, LITTLE DREAMING THAT HERR SIN IS PLANNING ITS COMPLETE DESTRUCTION IN A FEW SECONDS.
HERE VE GO!

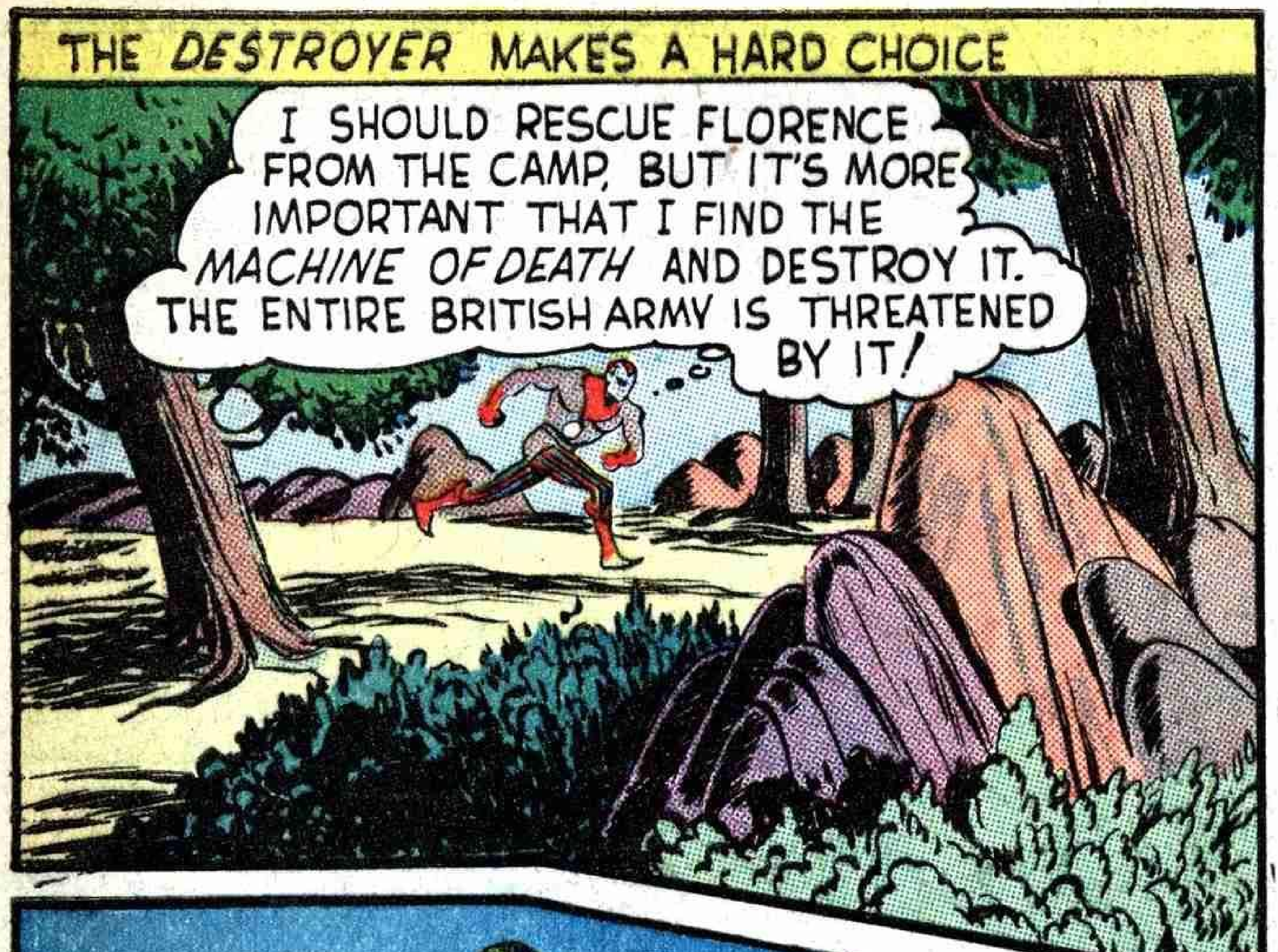
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE UP TO?
WE'LL KNOW IN A MINUTE!
YOU SEE, THE PLANE ISS NOW JUST ABOVE THE SHIP. NOW, VATCH!
NOW I SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO - BUT I MUSTN'T LET HIM DO IT!
IT CERTAINLY IS WONDERFUL THE WAY YOU WORK THIS!
AH, THANK YOU MEIN HERR. DANKE SCHOEN!
GETTING NEAR TO THE NAZI KILLER, KEEN STUMBLES AGAINST HIM...
I'M SORRY! I MUST HAVE STUMBLED!
LOOK OUT! DER SHIP ISS OUT OF CONTROL!
THE BRITISH BATTLESHIP IS SAVED! - BUT IT WASN'T ONLY LUCK - IT WAS THE DESTROYER!!!
WHEW - THAT WAS CLOSE! IF THAT PLANE CRASHED INTO US, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END FOR ALL OF US!
RIGHT YOU ARE! A GREAT STROKE OF LUCK, I CALL IT!
FOOL, SVINE, MEDDLER, IDIOT! YOU RUINED EVERYTHING! YOU MADE DER PLANE MISS DER SHIP!
OH-I-I-I'M SORRY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
ACCIDENT, VAS IT! I VANT DIS FOOL - AND DER GIRL, TOO - TO BE BROUGHT TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP! VE'LL TEACH DEM VOT VE THINK OF PEOPLE WHO DO ACCIDENTS!

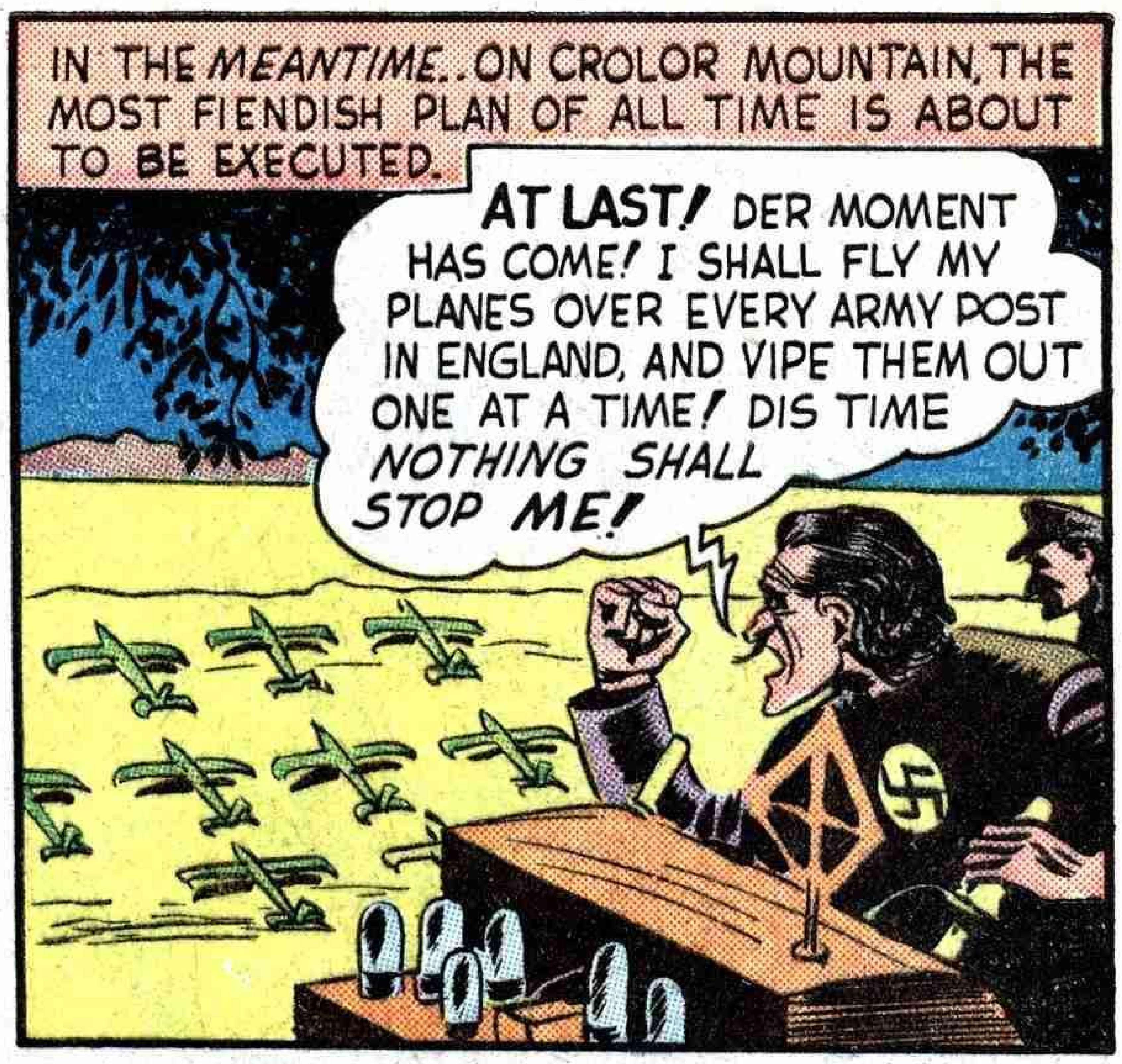
I'M SORRY THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS, FLO, BUT I HAD TO DO IT! I COULDN'T LET THAT SHIP BE SUNK!
I UNDERSTAND, KEEN
KEEN MARLOWE TAKES A SACRED VOW!
BUT, SOMETIME, SOMEHOW, I'LL GET FREE AND DESTROY THIS DEVILISH INVENTION WHICH CAN SINK A BATTLESHIP FROM FAR AWAY--- I, THE DESTROYER, SWEAR IT!
LATER
SO! I'LL TAKE CARE OF DER YOUNG FOOLS LATER-! BUT NOW, HOW CAN I FACE DER FUEHRER?
DER FUEHRER VILL SEE YOU NOW!
O-OHH-HHH-- G-GOOT!
MY- MY FUEHRER!
AH, SIN, COME IN, COME IN! I HAVE A SCORE OF 157 NOW! DID YOU SINK DER SHIP?
DE-DERE VAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T SINK DER SHIP!
VOT, VOT I, YOUR FUEHRER, TOLD YOU TO SINK DER SHIP!
N-N-NOBODY DOES VOT I TELL DEM ANYMORE! GOERING VON'T INVADE BRITAIN. YOU VON'T SINK DER SHIP, AN GOEBBLES VON'T BUY ME A NEW HI-LI- NOBODY LOFFS ME!
DERE, DERE, MY FUEHRER, I'LL SINK A SHIP FOR YOU TOMORROW I PROMISE!
..BUT.. IF THEY ONLY KNEW
DO YOU KNOW VOT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? DOT VERDAMTER DESTROYER FRIGHTENED VUN OF MY BEST COMPANIES OF STORM TROOPERS- SIN, I TELL YOU, I VANT THE DESTROYER CAPTURED- DO YOU HEAR -CAPTURE DER DESTROYER
YES, MY FUEHRER, VE VILL GET HIM- UND VEN VE DO---
8

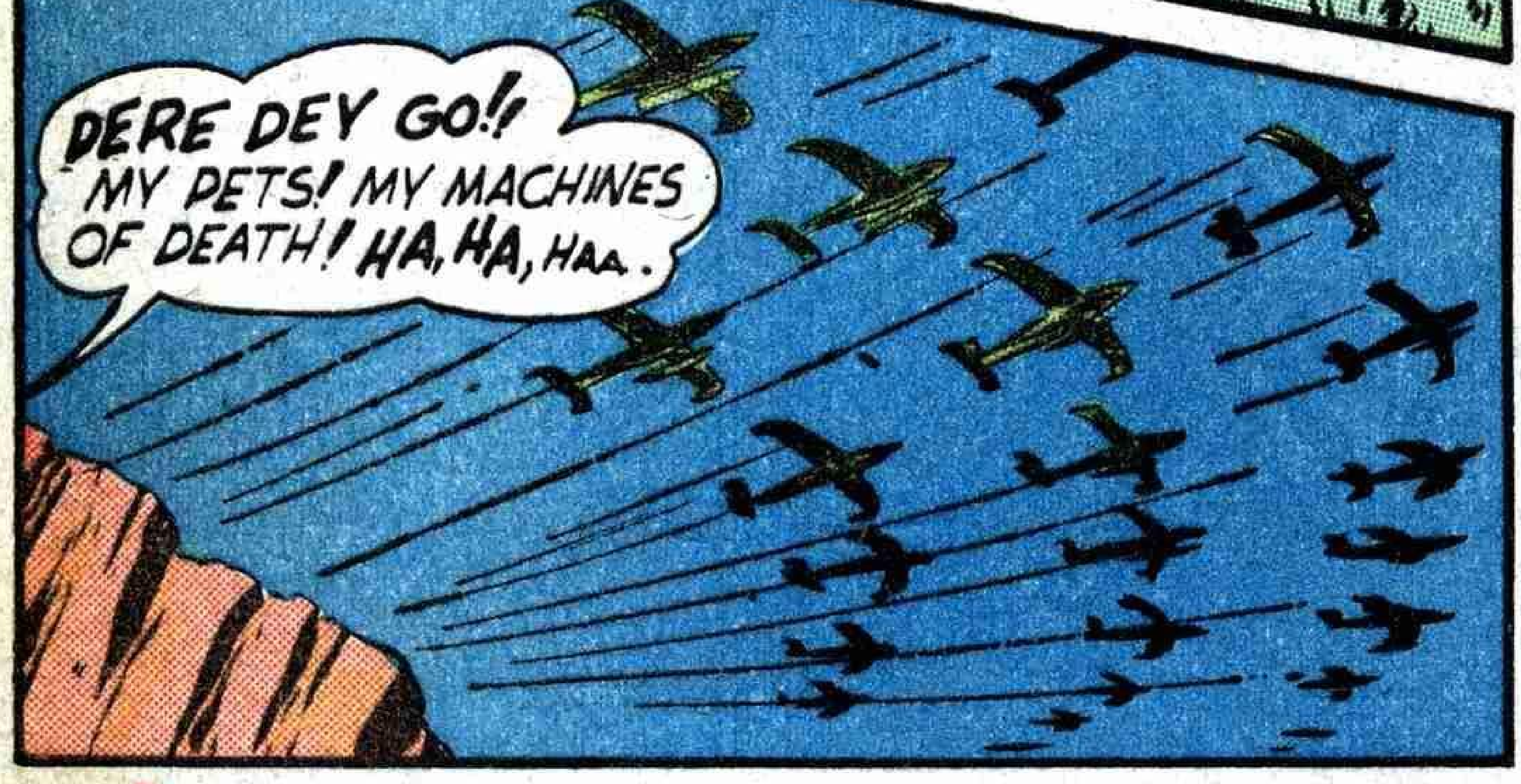
THE DAY VE CATCH DER *DESTROYER*, I VILL MAKE IT A *NATIONAL HOLIDAY!* NOW GO, I VANT TO BE ALONE!
JA, MEIN FUEHRER
IN THE MEANTIME, WE FIND *KEEN MARLOWE* IN A CELL.. A PLACE THE *DESTROYER* IS NOT USED TO OCCUPYING
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET OUT OF *HERE!* **BUT *HOW*?**
ALL RIGHT, YOU! VE'RE TAKING YOU OUT NOW! GET GOINK!
WELL, THAT'S NICE! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TAKING YOU? OH YES, OF COURSE. YOU'RE GOING TO BE SHOT **NOW!**
---WITH HUMAN LIFE SO CHEAP IN NAZI GERMANY, *KEEN* IS LED TO A STONEWALL. --*TO BE SHOT!*
UND NOW, YOU FOOL MEDDLER. YOU VILL FIND OUT VOT IT MEANS TO BUNGLE UP DER PLANS OF *VILHELM VON SIN.*
KEEN OL' BOY!, IF YOU EVER THOUGHT FAST. *DO IT NOW!!*
READY AIM!
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!
ZOWEE-EE
J.D.B.
BANG!

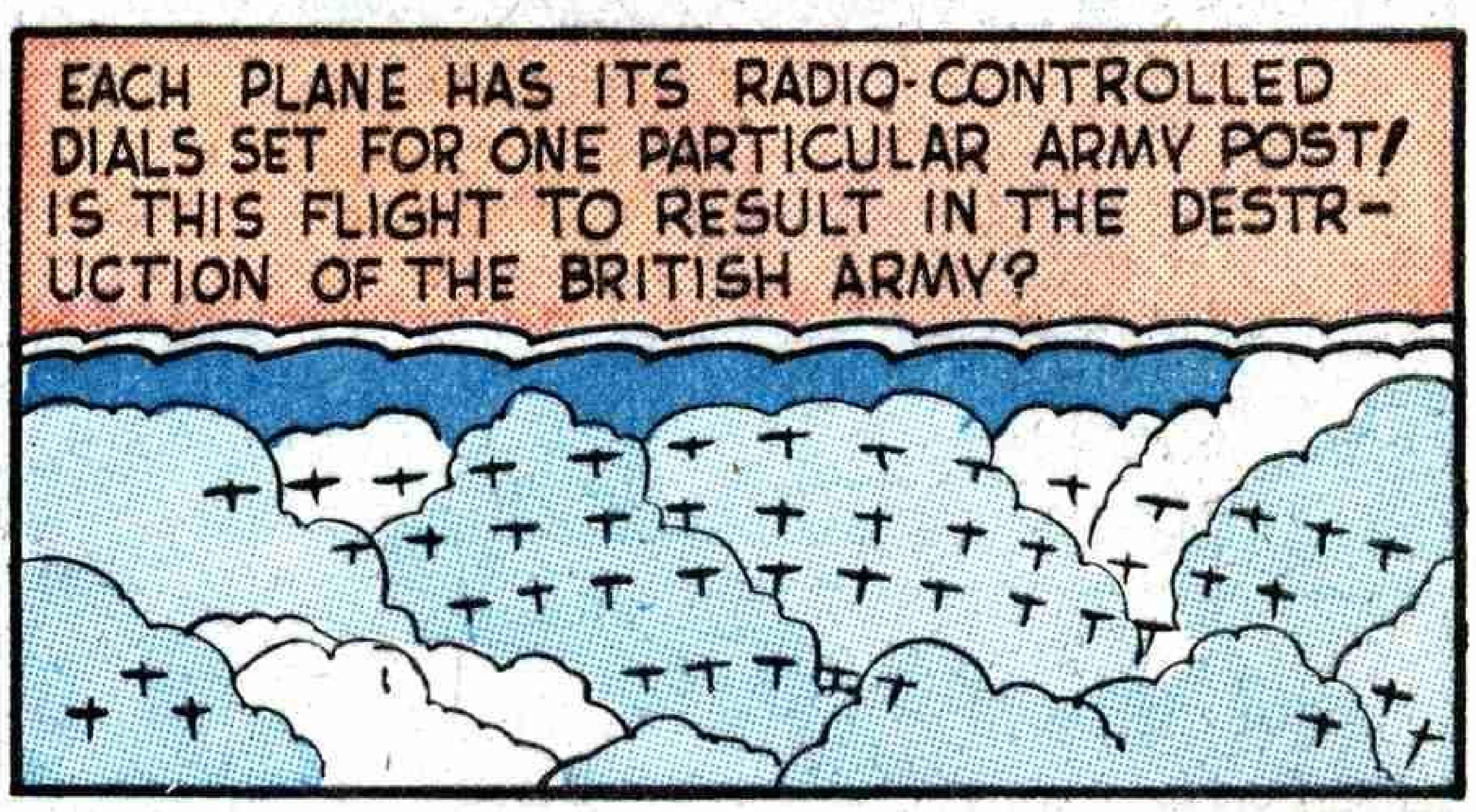
IT TAKES MORE THAN A FIRING SQUAD TO STOP KEEN MARLOWE- OVER HE GOES!
I'LL RACE AROUND THE CAMP AND BREAK IN THROUGH THE OTHER SIDE!
ONCE AGAIN, KEEN MARLOWE, IRRESPONSIBLE ADVENTURER BECOMES THE MIGHTY DESTROYER, --- JUSTICE LOVING CRUSADER.
I'LL BET THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYBODY EVER TRIED TO BREAK INTO A CONCENTRATION CAMP!
LEAPING OVER THE WALL THE DESTROYER FINDS.
HALT! VASS ISS?
DON'T GO AROUND POINTING GUNS AT PEOPLE, YOU LITTLE RASCAL!
POW
I HOPE HE SLEEPS WELL, WHILE I HUNT FOR SIN.
AH-H-HH - JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!
LISTEN, FRITZ! IF YOU WANT TO STAY HEALTHY THEN YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND WILHELM VON SIN! TALK!
HE- HE VENT TO CROLOR MOUNTAIN TO USE HIS MACHINE OF DEATH ON DER BRITISH ARMY! LET ME GO. SUPPOSE DER FUEHRER SHOULD SEE!

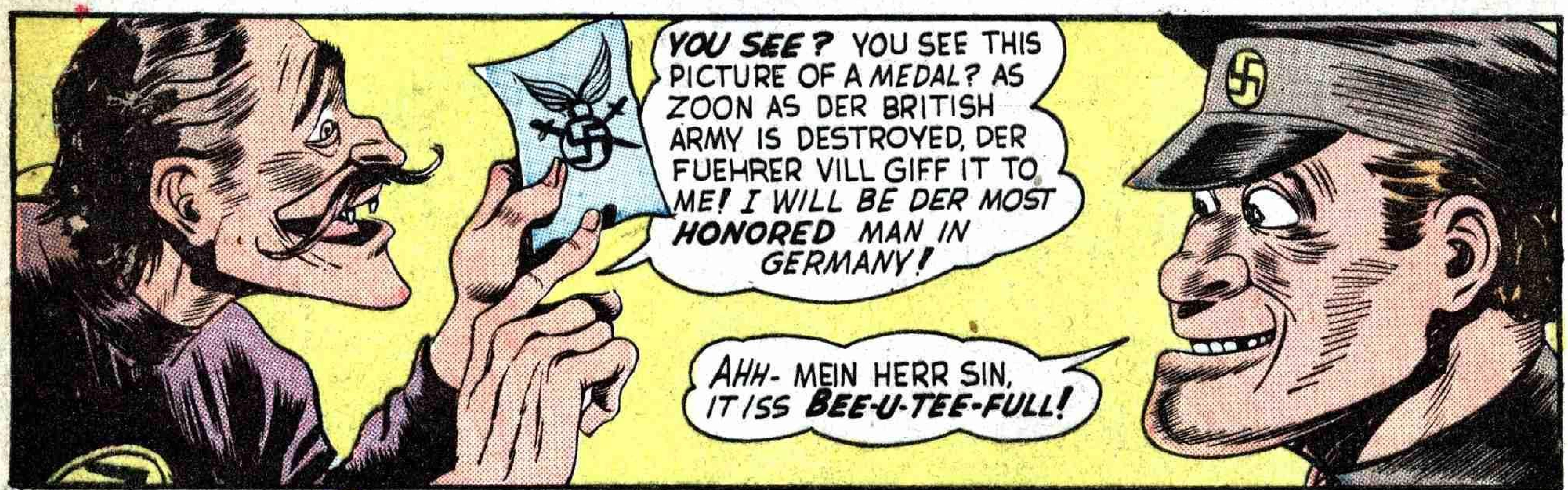
.BUT THE DESTROYER DOESN'T NOTICE THE STORM-TROOPERS SNEAKING UP BEHIND HIM!
O.K. FELLA, I'LL LET YOU GO! HA, HA, I WISH YOUR FUEHRER WERE WHERE YOU ARE! HA-HA
GET HIM!
ZOWEE! MORE TROUBLE!
WHAM!
SOCKO
THE DESTROYER BATTLES WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND DEMONS!
ACH, I'VE GOT HIM NOW!
NEFFER AGAIN VILL VE BE PLAGUED BY DER DESTROYER!
KILL HIM!
BUT THE DESTROYER DECIDES THAT HE HAS HAD ENOUGH
HA-HA, THIS IS THE END FOR DER DESTROYER!
THEY'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN THAT THEY WON'T MISS ME!

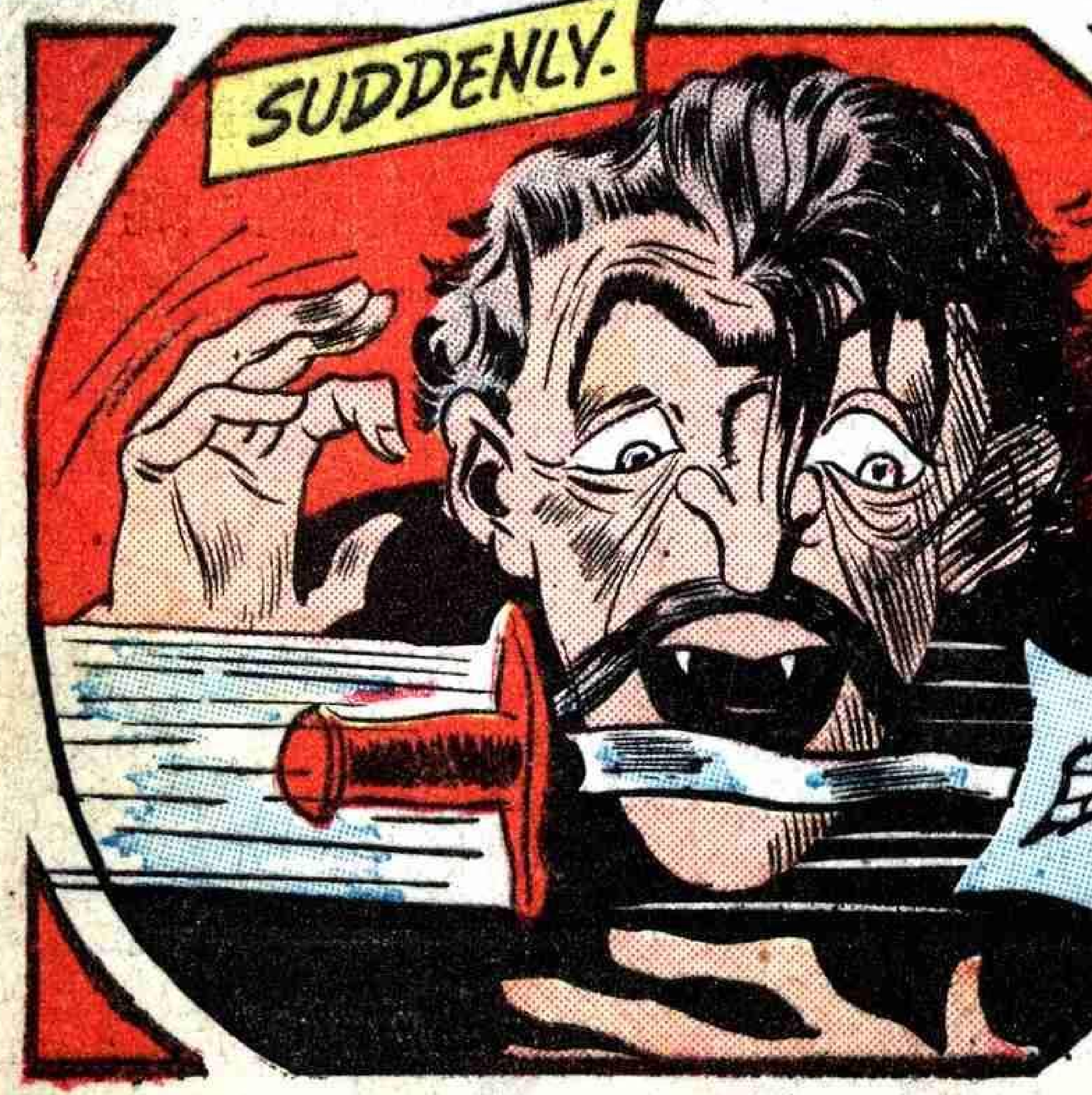

THE *DESTROYER* MAKES A HARD CHOICE
I SHOULD RESCUE FLORENCE FROM THE CAMP, BUT IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT I FIND THE *MACHINE OF DEATH* AND DESTROY IT. THE ENTIRE BRITISH ARMY IS THREATENED BY IT!

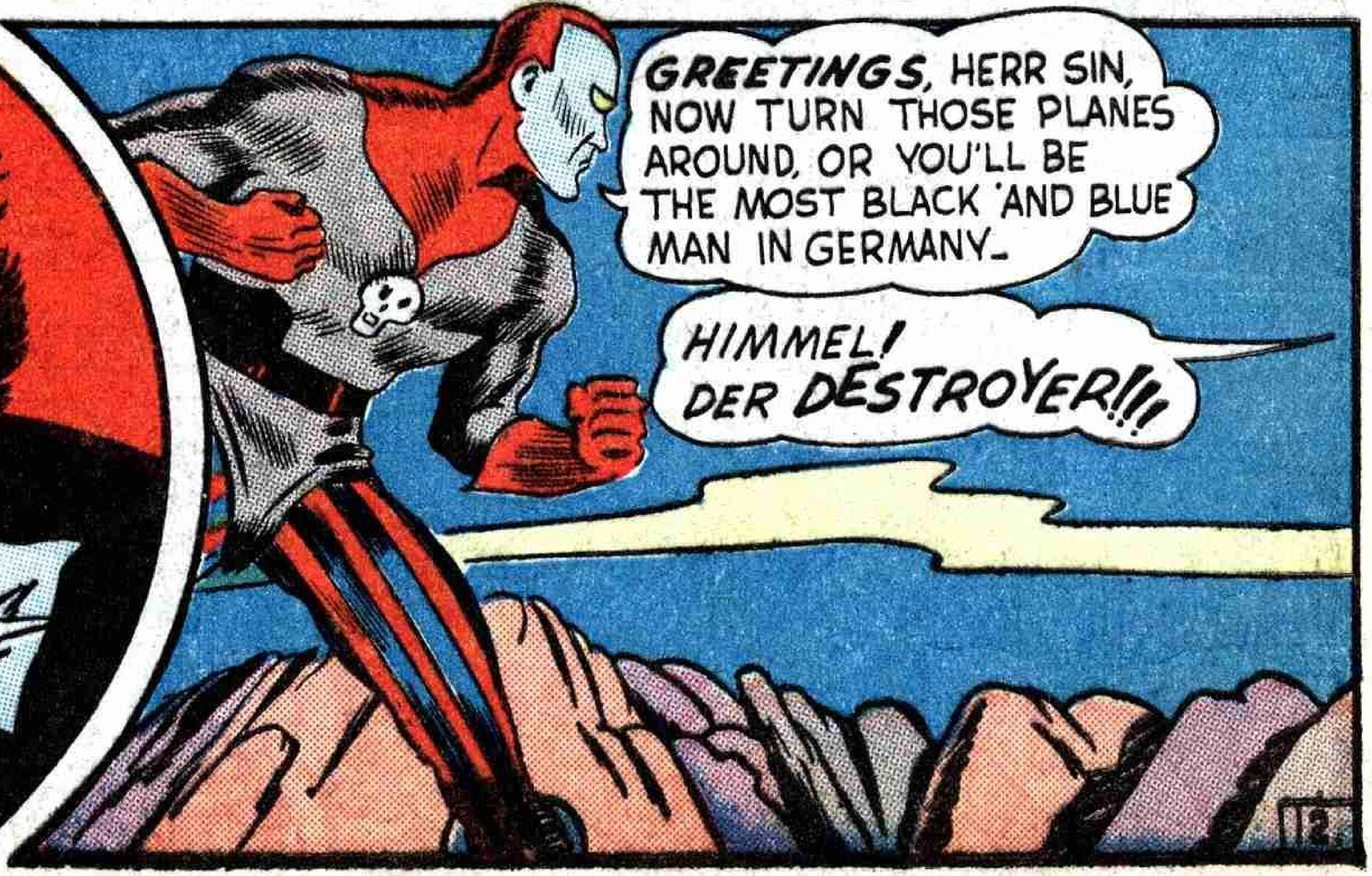

IN THE *MEANTIME*.. ON CROLOR MOUNTAIN, THE MOST FIENDISH PLAN OF ALL TIME IS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED.
AT LAST! DER MOMENT HAS COME! I SHALL FLY MY PLANES OVER EVERY ARMY POST IN ENGLAND, AND VIPE THEM OUT ONE AT A TIME! DIS TIME *NOTHING SHALL STOP* **ME!**


DERE DEY GO!! *MY PETS! MY MACHINES OF DEATH!* ***HA, HA, HAA..***


EACH PLANE HAS ITS RADIO-CONTROLLED DIALS SET FOR ONE PARTICULAR ARMY POST! IS THIS FLIGHT TO RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH ARMY?


YOU SEE? YOU SEE THIS PICTURE OF A *MEDAL*? AS ZOON AS DER BRITISH ARMY IS DESTROYED, DER FUEHRER VILL GIFF IT TO ME! I WILL BE DER MOST ***HONORED*** MAN IN GERMANY!
AHH- MEIN HERR SIN, IT ISS ***BEE-U-TEE-FULL!***


SUDDENLY.


GREETINGS, HERR SIN, NOW TURN THOSE PLANES AROUND, OR YOU'LL BE THE MOST BLACK 'AND BLUE MAN IN GERMANY..
HIMMEL! DER ***DESTROYER!!!***

THE DESTROYER CHARGES!...
KILL HIM! SHOOT HIM! QUICK!
.. BUT EVEN AS THE DESTROYER ACTS, THE PLANES OF DEATH GET EVER CLOSER TO THEIR UNSUSPECTING OBJECTIVES
NOW YOU GET YOURS!
STOP HIM!
A LUCKY SHOT STRIKES THE DESTROYER IN THE SHOULDER
OHHHHH..!
VE VILL TAKE CARE OF DIS SVINE LATER! LET US SEE HOW OUR PLANES ARE DOING NOW!
JA! MEIN HERR!
I'VE GOT TO STOP THOSE PLANES! I'VE GOT TO!
IF I CAN JUST REACH THE CONTROL BOARD IN TIME!
BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE PLANES BEGIN THEIR DIVE OF DEATH.

BACK ON CROLOR MOUNTAIN, THE DESTROYER IS DISCOVERED.
LOOK! DER DESTROYER ISS TRYING TO REACH DER MACHINE!
HA! HE VON'T GET FAR!
WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE, ... THE WOUNDED DESTROYER FIGHTS AS NEVER A MAN HAS FOUGHT BEFORE.
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW RATZIES TO STOP ME!
MEIN GOTT!! HE HAS DER STRENGTH OF A THOUSAND MULES. VE CAN'T STOP HIM!
ANOTHER FEW INCHES!
THE DESTROYER SUCCEEDS !!!
I-I MADE IT!
JUST A FEW FEET AWAY FROM THEIR OBJECTIVES, THE NAZI PLANES PLUNGE HARMLESSLY INTO THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AS THE SWITCH IS THROWN ---- ENGLAND IS SAVED!
MY MISSION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED..AND NOW, EVEN WITH A WOUNDED ARM, I'LL BEGIN TO DO A LITTLE MOPPING UP!
MADDENED BY DEFEAT.....SIN CHARGES!
YOU MEDDLING SVINE! I'LL KILL YOU THIS TIME!

WILHELM VON SIN, THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT YOU, AND SO...
THE END OF THE EVIL NAZI!
YEE-OOO WWW...
WHO'S NEXT? STEP RIGHT UP!
NO MEIN HERR, VE DON'T VANT TO FIGHT! VE NEFFER DID VANT TO FIGHT!
NOW THAT SIN IS DEAD.. VE CAN FLEE DER COUNTRY AND FIGHT FOR LIBERTY!
YES, YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO DO WHAT EVERY REAL GERMAN WOULD LIKE TO DO... YOU CAN FLEE TO SOME OTHER NATION AND LIVE LIKE MEN, INSTEAD OF SLAVES... GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU!
THE DESTROYER TAKES CARE OF HIS LAST TASK!
AND NOW, THERE'S JUST ONE THING LEFT TO DO.
HELLO, THIS IS HERR SIN.. I VANT YOU TO FREE FLORENCE VON BANGER FROM PRISON JA! DOT'S RIGHT.. UND GIFF MY REGARDS TO DER PHEW.. I MEAN DER FUEHRER!
THE NEXT DAY, A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN RECEIVES SOME BAD NEWS.
VOT? MY PLANES OF DEATH HAFF BEEN DESTROYED! UND VON SIN HASS BEEN KILLED! UND DER ENGLISH ARE STILL ABLE TO FIGHT ME!! UND DER DESTROYER HAS VON AGAIN... UND I CAN'T GET MORE THAN 90 POINTS ON MY HI-LI ANYMORE!!! OOH--I VISH I VAS DEAD!
WHILE IN AN APARTMENT. ...NOT FAR AWAY...
OH, KEEN, IT WAS A WONDERFUL THING YOU DID!.. NOW YOU CAN TAKE A REST.
NO, FLO, THERE CAN BE NO REST FOR ME, OR ANY MAN WHO LOVES FREEDOM ENOUGH TO FIGHT FOR IT! WHEREVER THE VILE HAND OF NAZISM REACHES.. THE DESTROYER WILL BE THERE..TO FIGHT, AND DESTROY IT!

the Witness
JUDGE, JUROR and AVENGER of EVIL
MURDER IS THE DEVIL'S OWN WEAPON. AND CRIMINALS ARE HIS HENCHMEN! AND WHEN CRIMINALS, AND MURDERERS AND A MASTER-FIEND,.. SO EVIL THAT HE *MIGHT BE THE VERY DEVIL, HIMSELF,* GET TOGETHER AND FORM A "LEAGUE OF BLOOD".. WOE UNTO THE *VICTIMS* THAT FALL INTO THEIR TERRIBLE CLUTCHES: BUT OVER *THE LEAGUE OF BLOOD*.. A MYSTERIOUS SHADOW HOVERED.. *A SHADOW WHICH WATCHED, AND WAITED*.. *A SHADOW WHICH SAW EVERYTHING, AND FORGOT NOTHING!* THE WITNESS..
OUR STORY OPENS IN A LARGE ROOM, WHERE A STRANGE GATHERING IS TAKING PLACE... A GATHERING OF THE FORCES OF *EVIL*..
YOU ASK WHY I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE, I-NATAS. WILL TELL YOU.. *YOU HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT!!*
YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT IS TO ER.."DISPOSE OF **SID STERN**, THE FOOTBALL PLAYER!.. YOUR TASK IS TO BE EXECUTED WITH-IN THE NEXT *24 HOURS*. THAT'S ALL!

THE TERRIBLE THOUGHTS OF THE EVIL NATAS ARE LIKE THE RAVINGS OF A SINISTER MAD-MAN..
HA-HA THERE THEY GO.. MY PETS! AND WITHIN 24 HOURS, SID STERN WILL BE DEAD, AND NICK THE GAMBLER, WILL PAY ME $5000 FOR ONE EVENING'S WORK! SOON I WILL BE AS RICH AS CROESUS! NOTHING CAN STOP ME... NOTHING!
THAT EVENING THE LEAGUE OF BLOOD SETS OUT UPON ITS HORRIBLE ASSIGNMENT
SHHHHHH!!
NOW!
AHH.. THEY HAVE DONE WELL!.. IT'S ALL OVER NOW!!
GOOD! DESE SORT OF ASSIGNMENTS MAKE ME JUMPY..
BUT THE DREADFUL DEED OF THE EVENING DOES NOT GO UNOBSERVED FOR UPON A NEIGHBORING ROOF A PIERCING PAIR OF EYES PEERS INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS! THE WITNESS APPEARS!
ONCE AGAIN HAVE I WITNESSED A DEED OF EVIL! AND ONCE AGAIN I SHALL ACT!
A DEATH-DEFYING LEAP...
YEEOOOWWW.. LOOK!

SWINGING ONTO THE FIRE ESCAPE... THE WITNESS ACTS!
WHAT UNLAWFUL ACT HAVE YOU PERPETRATED? SPEAK UP.. SPEAK UP.. BEFORE I DESTROY YOU!
GOSH.. WE AIN'T DONE NUTTIN'!! LET US GO!
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT GUY IS, BUT THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
BUT SOME SIXTH SENSE WARNS THE WITNESS OF IMPENDING DANGER AND...
AAAHEEEHE..
THE FOOL! HE LIVED BY MURDER.. AND SO DID HE PERISH
JUST A MOMENT.. YOUR HASTE WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!
RACING DOWN.. THE WITNESS GRABS THE FLEEING MOBSTER!
YOU ARE JUST A PETTY HIRELING.. YOU AREN'T IMPORTANT-- BUT WHO IS YOUR LEADER?... TELL ME BEFORE I THROTTLE THE LIFE OUT OF YOUR EVIL BODY!
I-I -- P-PLEASE.. IT'S NICK, THE GAMBLER... HE WANTED STERN KILLED SO HE COULD WIN!.
THAT IS ONE LAWLESS PERSON WHO WILL NEVER AGAIN SIN AGAINST SOCIETY! AND NOW.. TO ATTEND TO NICK, THE GAMBLER!

BUT LET US LOOK FOR A MOMENT INTO THE SANCTUM OF NATAS ---- MASTER OF EVIL!
IT IS TIME NOW.. THE DEED MUST HAVE BEEN DONE! NOW I SHALL COLLECT FROM NICK.
I HOPE THAT NICK IS AT HOME!!
HMM.. THE DOOR'S OPEN.. I'LL WALK IN..
ENTERING THE GAMBLER'S ROOM, NATAS IS STARTLED BY A TERRIFYING SIGHT..
NICK! NICK!! HE... HE'S DEAD!
YES, HE IS DEAD! HE HAS MET THE FATE HE DESERVED!
THE.. THE WITNESS! YOU KILLED HIM!
NO, I DIDN'T KILL HIM! WHEN I CONFRONTED HIM, HE HAD HEART FAILURE BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK! BUT NOW NATAS, IT IS YOUR TURN TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AGAINST SOCIETY.
THE MAN OF EVIL LEAPS INTO ACTION!
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE QUICKER THAN THAT TO CATCH NATAS!
RUNNING WON'T HELP YOU, NATAS! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE JUSTICE! SOONER OR LATER.. I'LL GET YOU! AND.. THEN..

THE NEXT DAY...
ATTENTION MEN!.. HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE WITNESS!
I DON'T WANT NO DEALINGS WIT HIM!
THE WITNESS!
THAT GUY'S DYNAMITE!
SILENCE! THE WITNESS HAS BECOME A NUISANCE AND MUST BE REMOVED! THAT MATTER WILL BE ATTENDED TO AS SOON AS YOU FULFILL YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT!
WHAT ASSIGNMENT IS DAT, BOSS?
A CERTAIN TRUCK-MAN NAMED ROLLINS HAS BEEN MAKING TROUBLE FOR ONE OF MY 'PROTECTION AGENCIES'.. ROLLINS AND HIS TRUCKS ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF!
AT THE OFFICE OF THE ROLLINS TRUCKING COMPANY-
Rollins TRUCKING CO.
ARE YOU ROLLINS?
WHY- ER, YES WHAT CAN I..?
ALL RIGHT. SHUT UP AND COME WIT' US!
IN A FEW MINUTES, THE STAFF OF ROLLINS TRUCKING CO., .. IS ROUNDED UP BY THE LEAGUE OF BLOOD!
ARE YOU GUYS ROLLINS' DRIVERS?
YEAH! SO WHAT?
THIS GAT SAYS YOU'D BETTER COME WIT' US AND NOT START ANY TROUBLE!
AH, YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY MEN! NOW PUT THEM IN THE TRUCK.. AND THEY WILL NEVER REFUSE TO PAY PROTECTION AGAIN..
THAT'S RIGHT, LOAD THEM IN! NOW DRIVE TO THE BIG CLIFF! HA, HA, THEY HAVE QUITE A SURPRISE IN STORE FOR THEM!
JUST AS THE BLOODY LEAGUE IS ABOUT TO EXECUTE IT'S VILE DEED, AN OMINOUS SHADOW APPEARS.
O.K. PUSH IT OVER!
HEY, LOOK- WHAT'S THAT?

ONCE AGAIN, THE WITNESS CHARGES INTO ACTION.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU COMMIT YOUR TERRIBLE CRIMES. I WILL BE THERE TO WITNESS THEM..THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR THE EVIL!
THE WITNESS!
CRACK
DASHING INTO THE TRUCK, THE WITNESS PUTS IT INTO REVERSE, BACKING IT OUT OF DANGER
NOW TO TREAT YOU TO A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
GET HIM! HE'S ONLY ONE MAN! KILL HIM!
IT SEEMS THAT I'M TO FIND IT NECESSARY TO USE STERN MEASURES UPON YOU VERMIN!
WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND TORNADOES THE WITNESS PLOWS THRU THE MOB OF KILLERS.
AS THE WITNESS REACHES NATAS' SIDE, THE OTHER CROOKS FLEE, LIKE RATS FROM A SINKING SHIP!
NOW TO SETTLE WITH YOU! OH.. THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY..WELL..WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT
THE WITNESS FREES THE TRUCKMEN!
THERE GO THE MEN WHO HAVE TRIED TO KILL YOU! CATCH THEM!
YOU BET WE WILL, PAL... LET'S GO!
WHERE DID THAT GUY WHO SAVED US, GO?
LOOK! THERE'S NATAS.. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF, HE MUST HAVE FALLEN!
DID HE? I WONDER!
RETURNING LATER WITH THEIR CAPTIVES..THE TRUCKMEN FIND THE WITNESS GONE, AS WELL AS THE EVIL NATAS!

The BLACK WIDOW

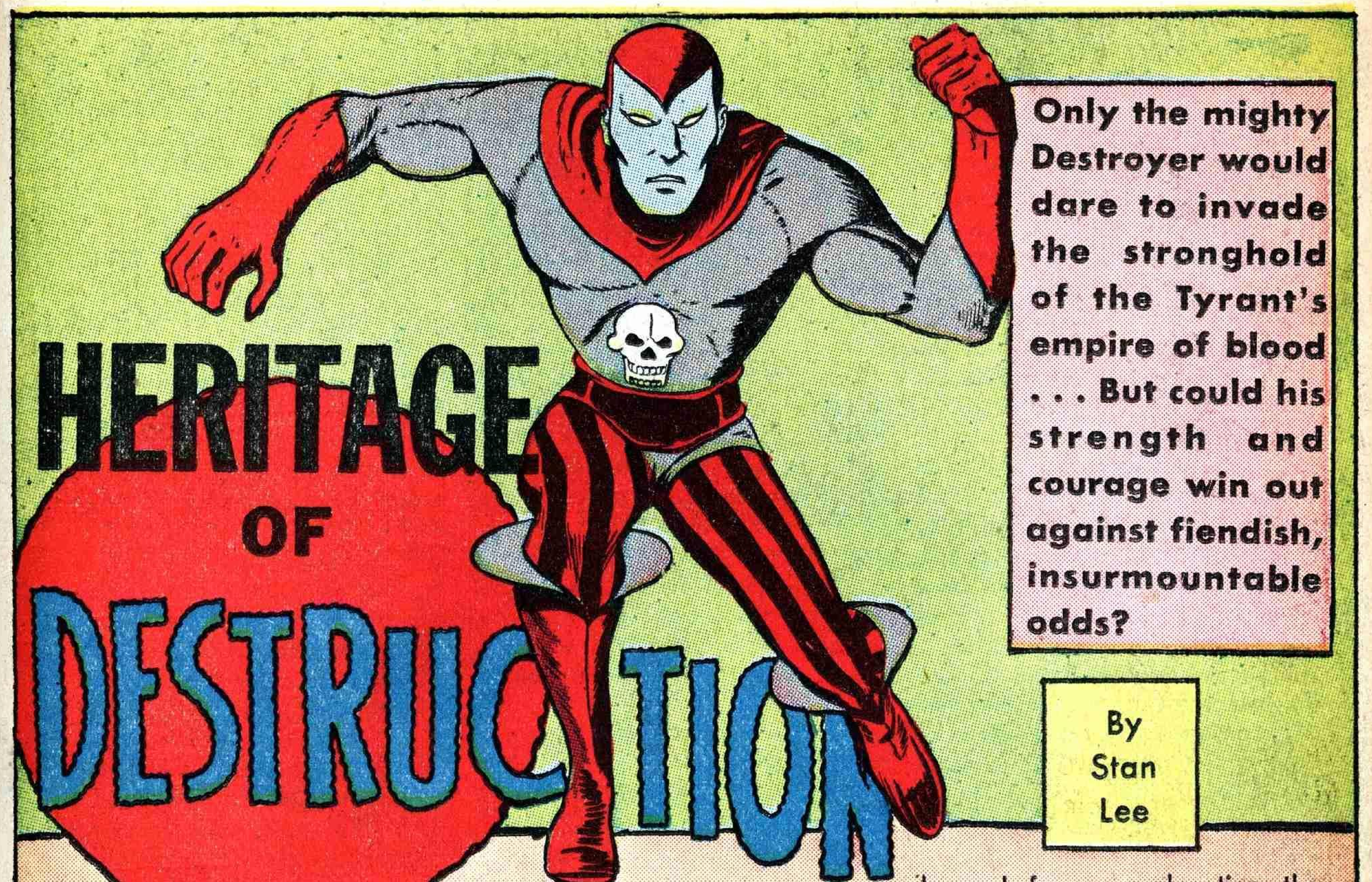
READ ON, FOOLISH MORTAL, READ ON AND WATCH THE BLACK WIDOW--THE SPAWN OF SATAN HIMSELF--AS SHE SETS OUT TO BRING MORE HUMAN BEINGS TO HADES, THE DEVIL'S OWN PLAYGROUND! READ ON-- IF YOU DARE!!---
STAN DRAKE
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE GROOME MUNITION WORKS--
AH, LEWIS, OUR PLAN CAN'T FAIL! WE'LL SELL MUNITIONS TO THE AXIS NATIONS AS WELL AS TO THE DEMOCRACIES!"
SYKES, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
MR SYKES
LET'S SHAKE ON IT! TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD!
AND TO OUR GROWING FORTUNES AND WIDENING POWER!

But, even as the monstrous fiends speak, let us turn our attention downward--down to the earth--- under the earth, down-- --down--
Down to the abode of Satan himself!
BRING FORTH THE BLACK WIDOW!
YOU SENT FOR ME, SIRE?
YES! ON EARTH ARE TWO MEN SO EVIL THAT I WILL NOT WAIT FOR THEIR SOULS! GO, BLACK WIDOW, AND DO NOT RETURN WITHOUT THEM! SATAN COMMANDS!
I SHALL NOT FAIL!
Once again, the Black Widow prepares to visit the earth--
Through the mists of darkness and clouds, of the everlasting quiet speeds the Black Widow--in quest of two evil souls---
Meanwhile, let us turn to Sykes and Lewis as they watch work progressing in their plant--
LOOK, SYKES! LOOK HOW FAST THEY'RE TURNING OUT NEW WEAPONS! THE FOOLS DON'T KNOW THAT THE AXIS POWERS ARE GETTING THEM FROM US ALSO!
NO! AND THEY'LL NEVER KNOW--HA--HA!

BUT, AFTER ALL, IT'S A TERRIBLE THING WE'RE DOING! SUPPOSE WE GET CAUGHT!
NONSENSE, MAN! NO ONE CAN CATCH US! WE'RE INVINCIBLE! DO YOU HEAR? *INVINCIBLE!*
AT THAT MOMENT, THERE IS AN INTERRUPTION
YES?
PARDON ME, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A JOB. YOUR PLANT IS SO BUSY I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
The NEW GIRL IS HIRED!
WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS PLANNING TO HIRE A NEW ONE. I THINK I CAN USE YOU-- WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CLAIRE VOYANT
THIS WAY, MISS VOYANT--
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, LEWIS
AND NOW, I'LL INSTRUCT YOU AS TO YOUR NEW DUTIES--HAVE A SEAT
MR LEWIS
FIRST OF ALL, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO--
Suddenly--
WHY--*WHO*-*WHAT*!!!
The BLACK WIDOW!
I'M KNOWN AS THE *BLACK WIDOW*, LEWIS! YOU'VE MADE A BUSINESS OF HUMAN BLOOD! YOU'VE SACRIFICED THE LIVES OF YOUR FELLOW COUNTRY-MEN SO THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MORE MONEY! *THERE IS NO CRIME WORSE THAN THAT!*
WHA-- *WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?*

AND SO, THE BLACK WIDOW IS GOING TO TAKE YOUR EVIL, MERCILESS SOUL TO THE PLACE IT BELONGS-- *ARE YOU READY?*
NO, NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! ***DON'T! DON'T!***
LEWIS--I WANT TO CHECK WITH YOU ON--WHY, *WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHO?*
AT THAT MOMENT, SYKES OPENS THE DOOR AND SEES--
LEWIS-- **COME!**
The BLACK WIDOW'S ***TOUCH OF DEATH!***
UGH!
OUTSIDE THE ROOM
IT'S THE BLACK WIDOW! SHE'S GOT LEWIS AND NOW SHE'S AFTER ME!
BUT SHE'LL NEVER GET ME! ***NEVER!***
SYKES BARRICADES HIMSELF INSIDE HIS OFFICE
NOW, LET HER TRY TO GET ME--JUST LET HER TRY!

AND NOW FOR THE OTHER PARTNER OF THE EVIL PAIR!
THIS IS THE OFFICE! DOES THE FOOL THINK THAT A LOCKED DOOR CAN KEEP OUT FINAL RETRIBUTION?
PAUL SY
SHE--*SHE'S COMING THROUGH!*
I SEE--YOU THINK TO CHEAT JUSTICE--*FOOLISH MORTAL!*
KEEP BACK! KEEP BACK OR I'LL SHOOT!
BANG
BANG
BANG
IF BULLETS WON'T STOP YOU, THIS CHEMICAL WILL!
OHHH!
YEEEOOOWWW!
HERE--HERE IS YOUR REWARD!
The BLACK WIDOW HURLS HER SCARLET CLOAK OVER THE EVIL-DOER!
HER WORK DONE, THE BLACK WIDOW FADES AWAY AND MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY BACK TO SATAN--
I'M NOT ON EARTH NOW, BUT AS SOON AS I LEARN OF EVIL WHICH MUST BE MET WITH QUICK PUNISHMENT, I SHALL TRAVEL THE GREAT DISTANCE AND RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE TO TREAT THEM TO--*DEATH!*



HERITAGE OF DESTRUCTION

Only the mighty Destroyer would dare to invade the stronghold of the Tyrant's empire of blood . . . But could his strength and courage win out against fiendish, insurmountable odds?

By
Stan
Lee

The Destroyer raced into the night as the Nazis' bullets tore thru the air after him! On his lips was a grim smile and in his heart a joyous song. For Keen Marlowe, otherwise known as The Destroyer, had succeeded in breaking into a Nazi prison and freeing 15 important political prisoners who were being tortured by the guards!

And now Keen was escaping with one of the prisoners, escaping thru the darkness while behind him the Nazis swore furiously that the next time the Destroyer crossed their path he would not escape alive! But Keen Marlowe had escaped many times from the bestial storm troopers, and their threats and vows of vengeance didn't worry him.

In fact, after the Destroyer and his companion had left their pursuers far behind, they sat down upon the grass of a nearby wood and began to talk.

"I imagine that you have adventures like these almost every night," said the prisoner whom Keen had rescued. "It must be extremely thrilling!"

The Destroyer answered with a smile. "It keeps me from getting rusty anyway," he retorted. "At any rate, I know that I'm fighting for a good cause and I shall never rest until Nazism is completely destroyed!"

The other man looked at the Destroyer and said, "I'll wager that this was the most narrow escape you've ever had!"

Keen laughed heartily. "This, the most narrow escape I've had? Ha ha ha, why this is nothing compared to some of the tight spots I've been in!" Then the Destroyer leaned back against a tree, crossed his legs leisurely and added, "Sit back and relax for a while and I'll tell you of a real adventure I had a few weeks ago!"

"It started with the arrests of a number of people in a small town not far from here. These people were suddenly awakened from sleep in the dead of night, a bayonet was pointed into their ribs, and they were told to dress quickly and follow the Storm Troopers! It didn't matter how much they pleaded or begged for an explanation—they were simply dragged from their homes!

"After a while, news of this reached my ears and I decided to look into the matter. It wasn't long before I reached the town, dressed as a plain German farmer. There, I mingled with the people and made a few friends and finally I learned the reason for the many arrests! They were made in the hope of trapping the Destroyer!

"You see, the Storm Troop leader figured that I would soon learn of the deeds he was committing and would come to punish them. But he planned to be ready for me, and to trap me!

"I also learned that the Storm Troop leader, whose name was Ludlow, planned to execute the unfortunate Germans whom he had captured. He believed that I would never allow the execution and I would come to save the prisoners. Then he planned to capture me!

"And so, I was torn between duty and self-preservation. I knew that it was my duty to attempt to save the German prisoners, and yet I knew that it would be almost suicide to make the attempt! For a few minutes I debated with myself, wondering what I should do, wondering whether Ludlow would really kill the Germans if I didn't come. But then I realized that I HAD to come! I couldn't take a chance on whether the prisoners would be killed or not! It was simply my duty to see to it that they were not killed!

"After I had reached that decision I decided to act immediately. In a dark alley I removed my ordinary clothes and stood revealed as the Destroyer! Once again the Destroyer would prowl the German streets, to bring hope and justice to the thousands of oppressed people within the Third Reich! And once again I would take my life into my hands so that others might live!

"In a few moments I had reached the concentration camp in which the unfortunate Germans were held. But reaching it wasn't my only problem—I had to manage to enter the camp, and to escape with the captives without being captured!

"Then I noticed a Nazi guard patrolling the outer gates. I crawled silently up to him, and before he had a chance to realize what had happened he was unconscious and The Destroyer was dressed in his uniform!

"The rest was pretty easy. Wearing his uniform I managed to get inside the camp without being questioned. In fact, I should have realized that it was a little bit TOO easy. When I reached the building where the prisoners were held, a voice cried out of the darkness, "There he is! Get him!" And that was all I remembered!

"When I woke up, a few hours later, I found myself in a small room, tied to a chair, with many Nazi Storm Troopers all around me! The leader of the troopers grinned at me and said, "So, herr Destroyer, you thought you could get avay mit invading our camp, eh? Ha ha, now ve haff a good treat in store for you!"

"The Troopers then carried me outside to the courtyard where I was placed against a stone wall. Ludlow stood in front of me, laughing. "It may please you to know, herr Destroyer," he smirked, "that ve haff freed der others whom ve vere going to shoot! Now dot ve haff you, ve don't haff to kill anybody else! Ve'll just kill you!"

"I realized then that I had been caught just as Ludlow planned me to be caught! It seemed as though there was no escape this time! So I stood against the wall, determined to show them the way a MAN could die! Ludlow gave his men the commands, "Ready!" "Aim," and then he stopped a second before crying "Fire". He was hoping that I'd cry for mercy, or something like that. But I just stood and watched him without saying a word!

"Finally he realized that I wasn't going to plead for my life, so he held his sword high in the air. As soon as he brought it down, that would be the signal for his men to shoot at me!

"But a second before his sword was brought down, I decided that if I was going to die, I might as well die as I had always lived—fighting! So, just as Ludlow prepared to wave his sword, I leaped!

"One leap carried me to Ludlow, and I grabbed the surprised Storm Troop leader by the shoulders and swung him around before he knew what had happened! Then he was facing his men, with me in back, so they didn't dare to shoot at me for fear of hitting their leader! I twisted Ludlow's arm around until he dropped his sword, and I picked up the sword myself. Then, holding the sword point against the back of his neck, I ordered him to walk toward the camp gates!

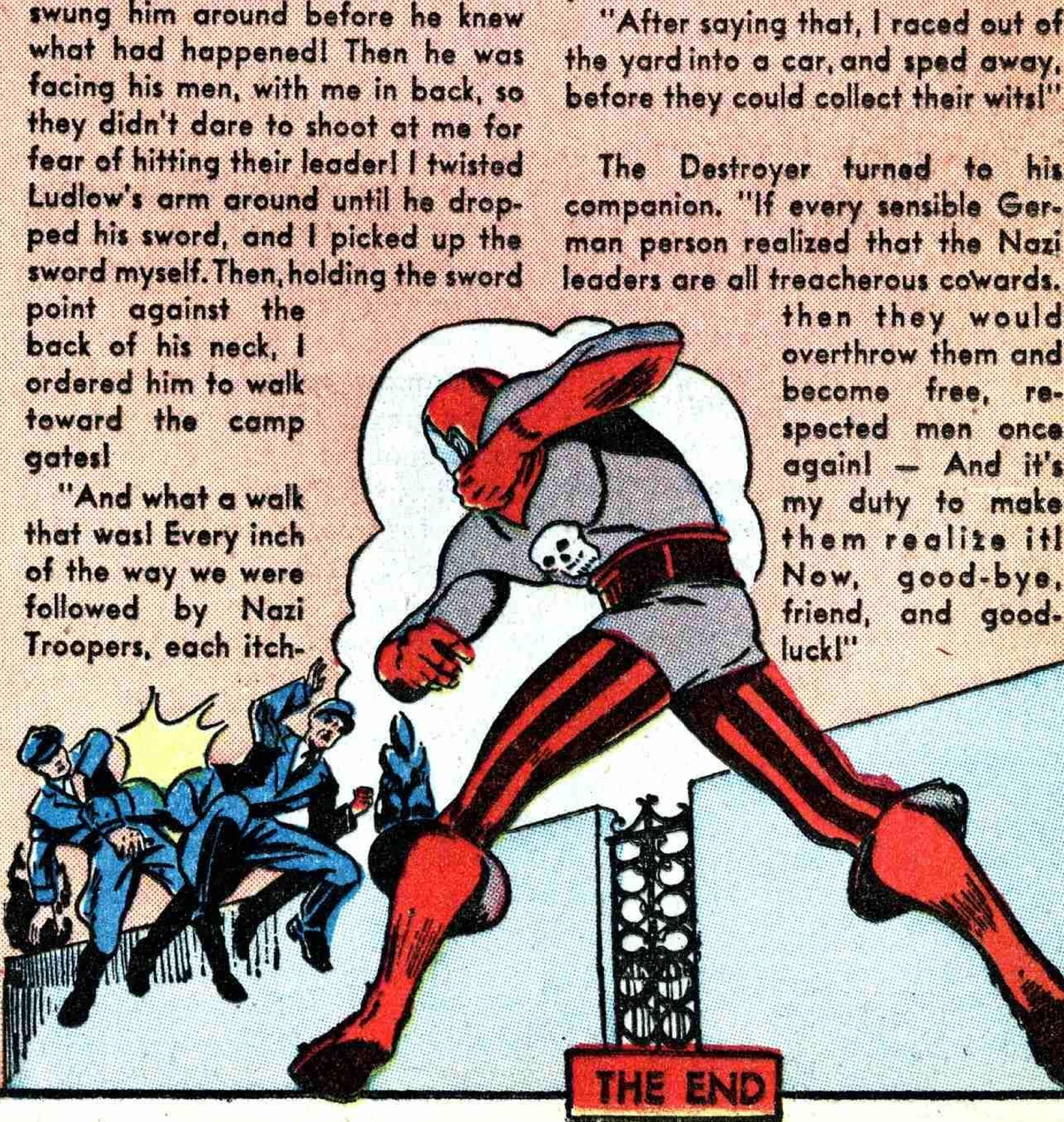
"And what a walk that was! Every inch of the way we were followed by Nazi Troopers, each itching to kill me on the spot, but each afraid to fire for fear of harming their leader! So, because of their bewilderment and lack of leadership, I managed to reach the outer gates safely, with Ludlow for a hostage!

"Reaching the gates, I then decided not to allow Ludlow to get away scott free. I was determined to show those Nazi fools that their leaders weren't the super-men that they thought they were! And so I ordered a Storm Trooper to toss Ludlow a sword, and then challenged Ludlow to duel with me—a duel to the death!

"The Storm Troop leader knew that he had no other choice, so he accepted my challenge! In 5 seconds I knew that I could defeat Ludlow, and he knew it too! Then, a few seconds later Ludlow threw down his sword and fell to his knees, begging me not to run him thru! I turned to the Nazi Troopers and said, "Look, men! Look at your leader! Look at the man you've been obeying without question! He is just a coward, the same as every Nazi leader in Germany, including your Feuhrer"

"After saying that, I raced out of the yard into a car, and sped away, before they could collect their wits!"

The Destroyer turned to his companion. "If every sensible German person realized that the Nazi leaders are all treacherous cowards, then they would overthrow them and become free, respected men once again! — And it's my duty to make them realize it! Now, good-bye, friend, and good-luck!"



THE CHALLENGER
BY GEORGE KLEIN AND MICHAEL SEKOWSKY
WHEN A GIANT MADMAN BECAME A DEADLY TERROR WHOM THE POLICE COULD NOT HALT -- ONLY THE CHALLENGER DARED TO MEET HIM -- IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
① OUR STORY OPENS OUTSIDE A FIGHT ARENA, WHERE WE FIND TWO UNSCRUPULOUS MEN REGARDING A POSTER WITH INTEREST --
LOOK, NAILS! THE APE'S FIGHTIN'!
YEAH! NOW'S OUR CHANCE! LETS GO!
APE
TO-NITE THE APE VS. SPIKE GUNTRY FOR THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP!
INSIDE THE ARENA ---
AND NOW -- PRESENTING THE MOST HIDEOUS FIGHTER IN AMERICA -- THE APE!

The APE!
HERE HE IS NOW!
WOW! HE SURE IS A BIG GUY!
The BELL RINGS AND THE FIGHT BEGINS!
OH-OH! THE APE'LL KILL HIM!
LEMME OUT! IT'S ALL OVER!
HERE'S WHERE THE APE WINS AGAIN!
THE AUDIENCE'S OPINION PROVES TO BE RIGHT! THE APE WINS IN THE FIRST ROUND!
POW
BUT UNNOTICED BY THE CROWD, THE CHALLENGER HAS ALSO SEEN THE FIGHT!
WHAT A POWERFUL MAN THAT APE FELLER IS! IT'S A GOOD THING THAT HE DIDN'T DECIDE TO BECOME A CRIMINAL! HE COULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE!
I THINK IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO KEEP MY EYE ON THE APE FOR A WHILE--JUST IN CASE!
IN THE APE'S DRESSING ROOM---
SAY, APE, BIG JOE SENT US!
O.K. COME IN. LEAVE US A WHILE, MACK
YEAH-- WE WANNA TALK TO YA!

BIG JOE WANTS YOU TO JOIN OUR-ER, ORGANIZATION--
YEAH? WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
A COOL $100,000
WHEW! THAT'S REAL DOUGH! WHAT DO YA WANT ME TO DO?
WE'RE TACKLING THE 6TH NATIONAL BANK TOMORROW. HERE'S WHAT YOU DO---
A FEW MINUTES LATER!..
OH, OH! THOSE GUYS ARE TWO OF BIG JOE'S BOYS! THAT MEANS TROUBLE AHEAD FOR THE APE--AND THE CHALLENGER!
The NEXT DAY WE FIND THE APE INSIDE THE 6TH NATIONAL BANK--
GIMME THAT CHANGE IN SMALL BILLS, WILL YA?
CASHIER
Suddenly--
O.K., EVERYONE-- UP WIT YER HANDS! THIS IS A HOLD-UP!
QUICK, NAILS! GET BEHIND THAT CAGE AND GET THE DOUGH!
IN A FEW SECONDS THE DARING ROBBERS SPEED AWAY WITH THEIR BOOTY, LEAVING THE APE TO PREVENT ANY PURSUIT...
NOBODY BETTER TRY TO FOLLOW DEM GUYS IF YOU WANNA STAY HEALTHY!
BANK
IN THE GET-AWAY CAR, BIG JOE IS ENJOYING HIS OWN PRIVATE JOKE--
HA-HA! THE FOOL THINKS THAT WE'RE GOING BACK AND PICK HIM UP AS SOON AS WE'VE DROPPED THE LOOT!
BUT YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE 'IM THERE TO TAKE 'TH' BLAME, EH, BOSS? YOU SURE ARE SMART!

YES, HE SERVED HIS PURPOSE AND THIS WILL BE THE LAST WE'LL HEAR OF THE APE!
BACK IN THE BANK, THE APE TAKES CARE OF A GUARD AS A TELLER PRESSES THE ALARM!
IN AN INSTANT A POLICE CAR IS SPEEDING TOWARD THE BANK---
POLICE
THERE HE IS! GET HIM, MEN!
USING HIS TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, THE APE PLUNGES THROUGH THE POLICE!
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME! OUT OF MY WAY!
THERE HE GOES! WE'LL NEVER GET 'IM NOW--
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE APE WOULD EVER BECOME A CROOK!
NEXT DAY THE CHALLENGER IS ON THE PROWL!
SO, MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THE APE GOT HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE AFTER ALL!
Meanwhile, IN HIS HIDE-OUT, THE APE REALIZES HE'S BEEN WOUNDED!
THOSE RATS DESERTED ME! THEY JUST USED ME TO HELP THEM ESCAPE! AND THEY FIGURED I'D BE CAUGHT! OHH-- MY HEAD! I MUST'VE BEEN SHOT!

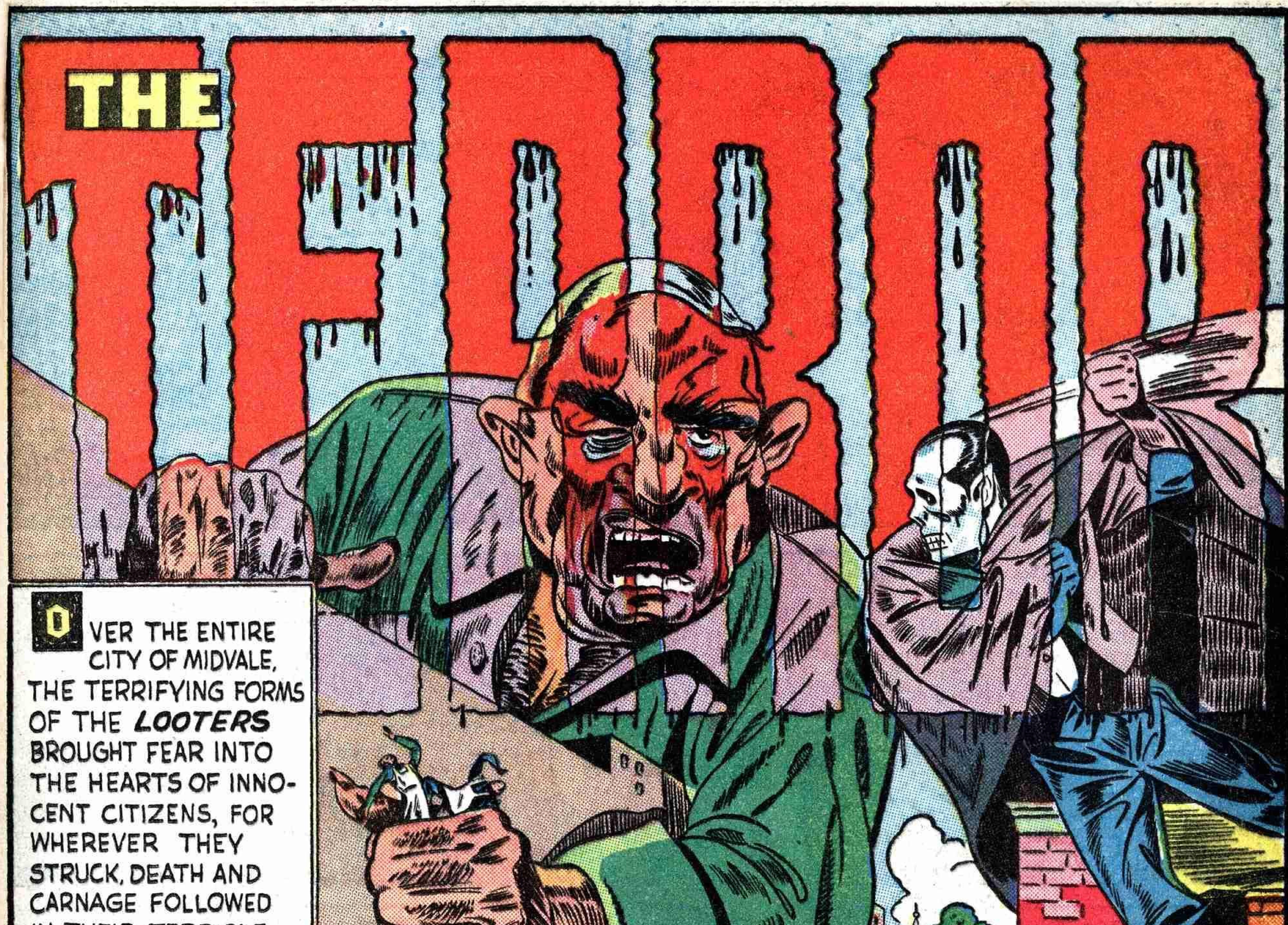
MADDENED BY THE BULLET WHICH HAS LODGED NEAR HIS BRAIN, THE APE STORMS OUT INTO THE NIGHT!
MY HEAD, IT'S KILLING ME! I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL KILL 'EM, KILL 'EM ALL!
OH, WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! THERE'S THE APE NOW! I'LL FOLLOW AND SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO!
Meanwhile, IN BIG JOE'S HIDEOUT--
YOU SURE ARE SMART!
WELL, I GUESS THE APE'S DEAD OR IN JAIL BY NOW, THE SUCKER!
BOSS, LOOK!
SUCKER, WAS I? I'LL KILL YOU ALL!
CRASH!
HE-- IT'S THE APE!
STOP HIM! STOP HIM!
CHEE! HE DON'T EVEN FEEL THE BULLETS
UGH!
HA-HA! I'LL KILL YOU ALL!
IN A BURST OF FURY, THE CHALLENGER APPEARS!
YOU RATS DON'T DESERVE IT, BUT I'M HELPING YOU!
FOOL! I'LL KILL YOU TOO!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

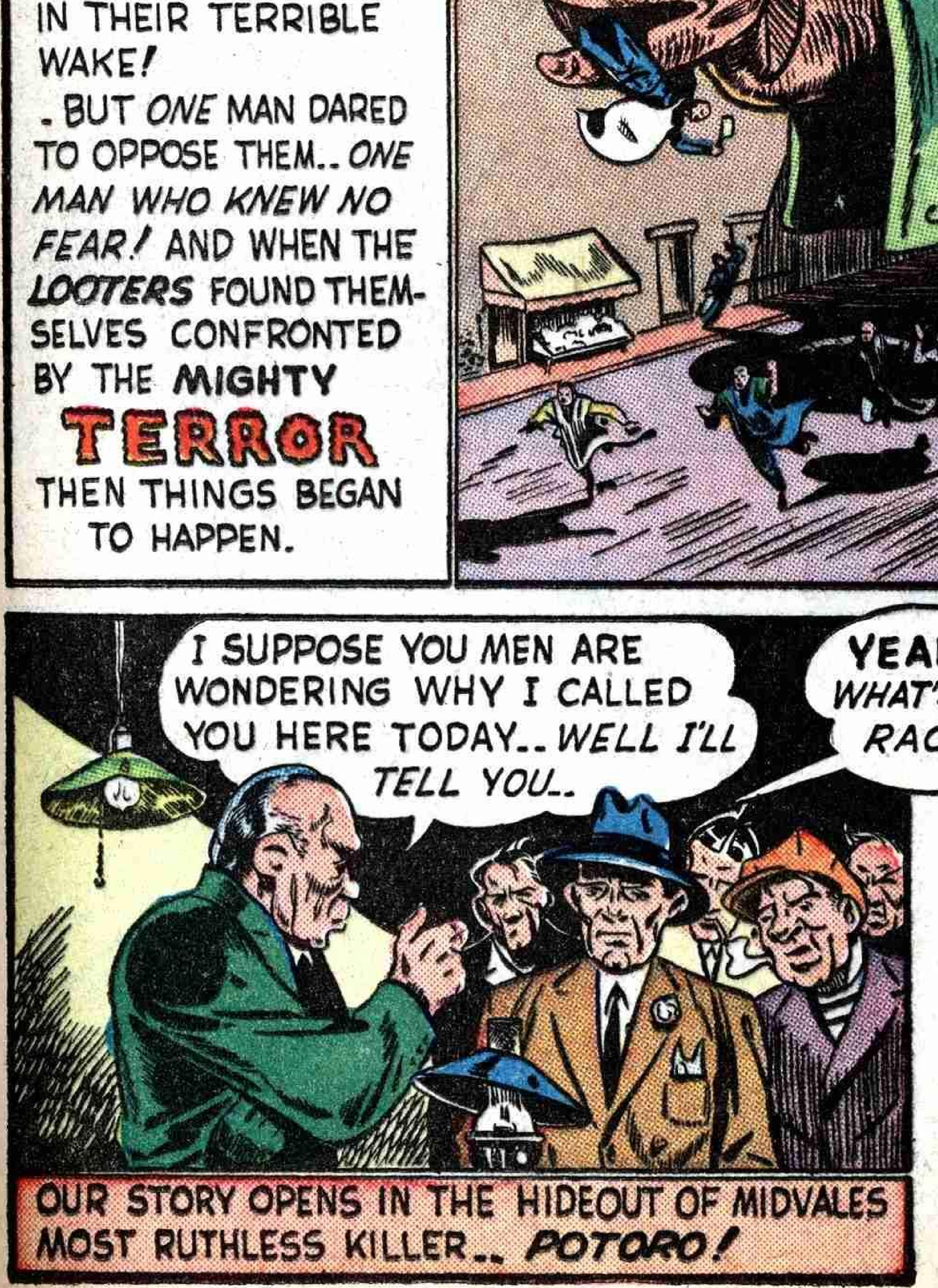
TAKE THAT!
CRASH!
BOY! YOU HIT HARDER THAN I THOUGHT! BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO STOP ME!
BOTH MEN STAND TRADING BLOWS THAT WOULD KILL ORDINARY MEN! BOTH ARE DETERMINED NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO WEAKEN!
AS THE POLICE POUR IN, BOTH THE CHALLENGER AND THE APE MAKE THEIR ESCAPE!
WHAT'S THE RACKET UP HERE?
YOU'LL FIND YOUR BANK ROBBERS LYING AROUND! SO LONG, PALS!
YEAH! WHAT'S GOIN ON?
TOO BAD I HAD TO STOP ATTENDING TO THE APE! BUT I FEEL THAT OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN SOON!
THE NEXT NIGHT!
I'M HUNGRY! I MUST EAT! GIVE ME FOOD!
Y-YES SIR?
FOOD! I MUST HAVE FOOD! NOBODY MUST STAND IN MY WAY!
THE APE HAS BECOME A DIABOLICAL KILLER!
MEANWHILE, THE CHALLENGER ENGAGES IN A RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR THE APE!
I'LL FIND HIM! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! AND WHEN I DO--!

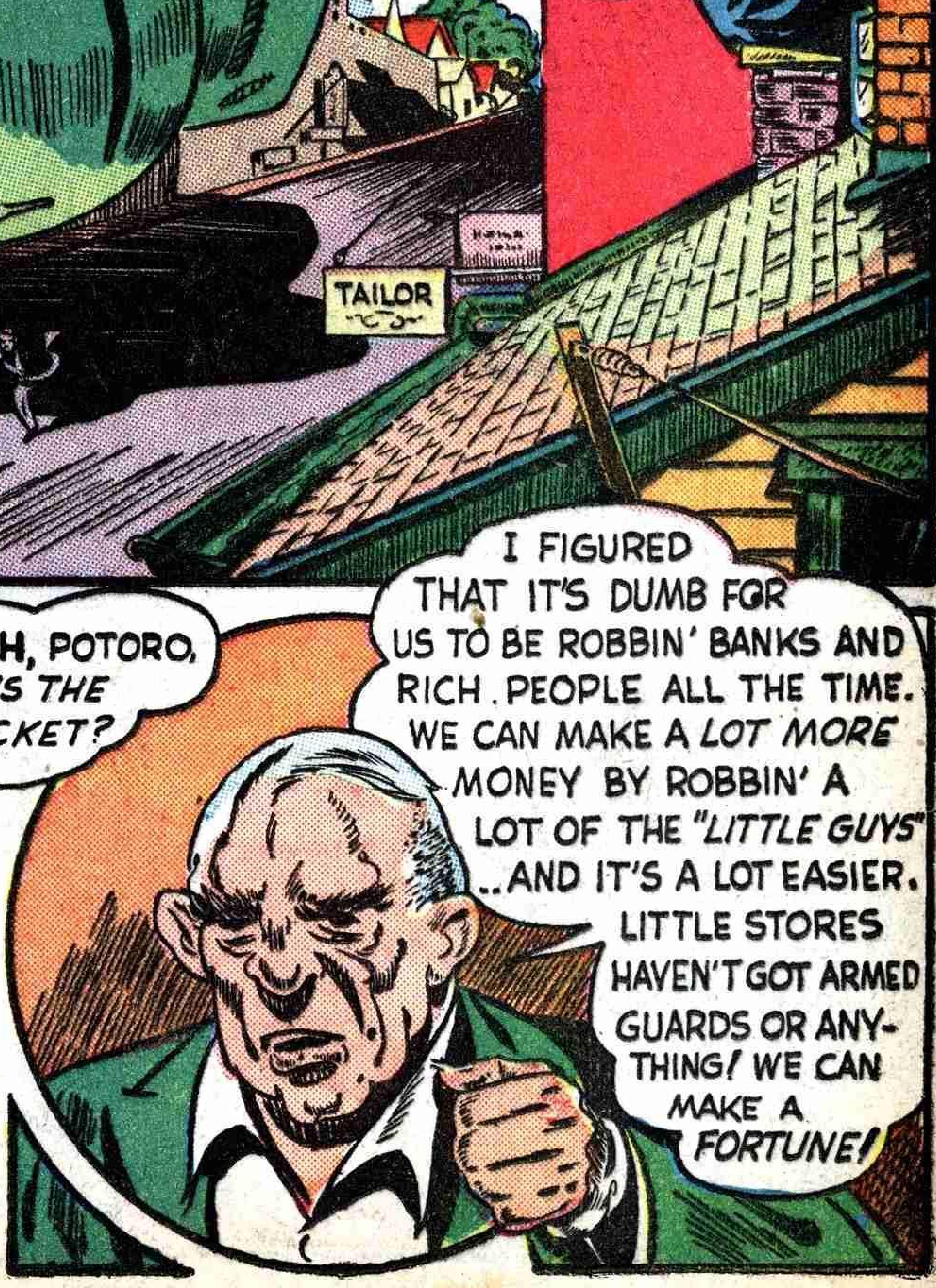
WHAT'S THAT DOWN THERE? IT LOOKS LIKE--IT IS--THE APE!
GROCER
A ROCK IS THROWN INTO THE STORE WINDOW!
WHAT WAS THAT?
The CHALLENGE!!
APE, YOU ARE NOW A KILLER WITH NO RIGHT TO LIVE! SO I CHALLENGE YOU TO A FIGHT TO THE DEATH! THE CHALLENGER HAS SPOKEN!
COME DOWN! COME DOWN AND I'LL KILL YOU!
The CHALLENGER LEAPS!
I'LL TAKE A SHORT CUT!
THIS'LL BE QUICKER THAN HE EXPECTED!
AND NOW, APE, PREPARE FOR YOUR FINISH!
The TERRIBLE BATTLE BEGINS!
FOOL! I'LL RIP YOU APART!
OOOOFF!

HA-HA! YOU ARE EASY!
YOU HAVEN'T LICKED ME YET!
WHOOSH!!
HERE'S SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!
THE CHALLENGER RACES FOR A HANGING FIRE-ESCAPE LADDER--
I'VE GOT A SUPRISE FOR YOU, CHUM!
AND HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
HE GRABS IT AND SWINGS!
THE APE DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL THE CHALLENGER'S BLOWS!
UUHH!
I'LL SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!
BY ACCIDENT, THE CHALLENGER STRIKES THE APE WHERE THE BULLET HAS LODGED IN HIS HEAD--
A-A-A-I-I-E-EE!
GOOD LORD! I MUST HAVE HIT HIM WHERE HE'D BEEN WOUNDED!
AND SO THE APE MEETS THE SAME END AS ALL FOOLS WHO THINK THAT CROOKED MONEY WILL COME EASILY!

THE TERROR


OVER THE ENTIRE CITY OF MIDVALE, THE TERRIFYING FORMS OF THE *LOOTERS* BROUGHT FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF INNOCENT CITIZENS, FOR WHEREVER THEY STRUCK, DEATH AND CARNAGE FOLLOWED IN THEIR TERRIBLE WAKE! . BUT *ONE* MAN DARED TO OPPOSE THEM.. *ONE MAN WHO KNEW NO FEAR!* AND WHEN THE *LOOTERS* FOUND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED BY THE **MIGHTY TERROR** THEN THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN.
TAILOR


I SUPPOSE YOU MEN ARE WONDERING WHY I CALLED YOU HERE TODAY.. *WELL I'LL TELL YOU..*
YEAH, POTORO, *WHAT'S THE RACKET?*
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE HIDEOUT OF MIDVALES MOST RUTHLESS KILLER.. *POTORO!*


I FIGURED THAT IT'S DUMB FOR US TO BE ROBBIN' BANKS AND RICH. PEOPLE ALL THE TIME. WE CAN MAKE A *LOT MORE* MONEY BY ROBBIN' A LOT OF THE *"LITTLE GUYS"* ..AND IT'S A LOT EASIER. LITTLE STORES HAVEN'T GOT ARMED GUARDS OR ANYTHING! WE CAN MAKE A *FORTUNE!*

..AND SO, DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, THE UNHOLY GROUP OF GANGSTERS LAY THEIR EVIL PLANS.
NOW LET US TURN TO A NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY STORE... *IT IS THE NEXT DAY*....
THANK YOU, MA'AM, CALL AGAIN!
SOAP SPECIAL
BUSINESS SURE HAS BEEN GOOD LATELY! IF IT KEEPS UP, I'LL BE *ABLE* TO BUY BABY THAT NEW DRESS SHE'S NEEDED FOR MONTHS... AND I CAN SEND BETTY TO THE DOCTOR.
SUDDENLY
STICK 'EM UP!
WHAT THE..?
*YOU - YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT MONEY! IT'S ALL I HAVE IN THE WORLD! PLEASE.. **PLEASE**.!*
SHUT UP AND YOU WON'T GET HURT! *I SAID **SHUT UP!***
O.K., LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! --- WE GOT--- OOOP!
IT-- *IT'S* **POTORO!**
THE GANG LEADER'S MASK *FALLS OFF!*
SO YOU SAW ME, *DID YOU? WELL,* YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT. *TAKE THIS !!*
BANG! BANG!!
UCHHHH..
LET'S GO! WE HAVE SOME OTHER "CALLS" TO MAKE BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER!
THE COWARDLY KILLERS RACE AWAY, LEAVING THEIR VICTIM BEHIND.

WHAT'S THIS: "SERIES OF ROBBERIES BREAKS OUT IN MIDVALE. GROUP OF CRIMINALS KNOWN ONLY AS LOOTERS TERRORIZING SMALL STORES AND HOMES.
OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO A NEARBY TOWN WHERE WE FIND THE UNDERWORLD'S MOST FEARED OPPONENT READING A NEWSPAPER.
SO, AN ORGANIZED MOB OF THUGS ARE ROBBING THE LITTLE FELLAS, *EH?* PICKING ON THE POOR PEOPLE, *ARE THEY?*
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T FIGHT BACK!
WELL, WE'LL SEE WHAT ***THE TERROR*** CAN DO ABOUT IT!
MADDENED BY THE RUTHLESSNESS AND LACK OF MERCY SHOWN BY THE ROBBERS, A CHANGE COMES OVER THE MAN, AND WE FIND *THE TERROR* IN HIS PLACE!
IT WILL BE A FIGHT TO THE *FINISH* BETWEEN THOSE CURS AND THE TERROR! AND ***THE TERROR*** *SHALL WIN!*
AND SO, DAY AFTER DAY, *THE TERROR* HUNTS THRU THE STREETS OF MIDVALE.. *SEARCHING.. HOPING..* KNOWING THAT SOONER OR LATER HE WILL COME ACROSS THE LOOTERS.
BUT, ONE DAY, THE TERROR ENTERS A STORE AND....
EH, LET ME HAVE TWO SHIRTS, *PLEASE!*
CERTAINLY, SIR.
WHAT...?
OHHHHH!
PUT DOWN DAT STUFF AND RAISE YER HANDS!

THE LOOTERS AGAIN!
NO, NO.- DON'T TAKE THAT MONEY!. I'M GOING TO BE MARRIED SOON-- I NEED-!
SHUT UP, SAP!
THE FIENDS! THE EVIL, MERCILESS FIENDS!
UNSEEN BY THE LOOTERS, THE CUSTOMER UNDERGOES A CHANGE, AND BECOMES---
THE TERROR
SOCK
BEFORE THE LOOTERS ARE AWARE OF THE CHANGE, THE TERROR LEAPS OVER THE COUNTER AND---
NOW THE LOOTERS AND I ARE GOING TO MIX IT UP A BIT.
CRASH!
WHERE DID HE GO?
JUST LEMME GET MY HANDS ON 'IM!
YEEE
OOOW
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, BOYS?
THE TERROR FIGHTS WITH THE FURY OF 1000 DEMONS.
LET'S GET HIM! HE CAN'T LICK ALL OF US!
WE'LL RIP HIM APART!

KILL HIM!
LIKE A PACK OF ANGRY WOLVES, THE LOOTERS CHARGE AT THE TERROR!
BUT THE MIGHTY FIGHTER OF EVIL CAN WELL TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
THIS OUGHT TO CURE YOU!!
LOOK OUT!
I WISH I COULD DO THIS TO EVERY CROOK IN THE WORLD!
CRASH
POW!
-- BUT A COWARDLY BLOW FROM BEHIND FELLS THE FIGHTING TERROR.
WOW, WHAT HIT ME!
HEY, LOOK! THE TERROR -- HE'S OUT!
OH BOY, WHAT A BREAK FOR US!
LET'S TAKE HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE COPS COME!
THE LOOTERS LEAVE WITH THEIR VICTIM.
SO WE HAVE CAPTURED THE FAMOUS TERROR, EH? HA-HA-HA. AND WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO AMUSE YOU TOO.
LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, RAT, BECAUSE WHEN I GET FREE -- !
AN HOUR LATER, IN THE -- LOOTERS HIDEOUT --

SPEAK WHEN YOU'RE SPOKEN TO, *DOG*!
LET'S GIVE IT TO HIM NOW, BOSS.
NO, I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.
AFTER THE TERROR IS DEAD, THERE'LL BE NO ONE LEFT TO OFFER US ANY REAL RESISTENCE! SO LET'S MAKE AN EVENT OF HIS DEATH! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE CITY PARK TONIGHT AND SHOOT HIM THERE. THEN WE'LL LEAVE A NOTE ON HIS BODY TELLING THAT THIS IS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ANY ONE WHO DARES RESIST THE LOOTERS.
CHEEZ, BOSS, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
O.K. *TERROR*, YOU'LL COME ALONG WITH US *NOW*!
IS THIS TO BE THE FINAL CHAPTER IN THE TERROR'S HEROIC LIFE?
WELL, DEATH MUST COME TO ALL MEN. I *WON'T* BE AFRAID TO FACE IT.
O.K. SMART-GUY, **GET OUT!**
THE MURDER CAR REACHES THE PARK.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A PLEASURE. COME ALONG, *PAL!*
I'LL SHOW THEM HOW A *MAN* CAN DIE!

WELL, TERROR, IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE PLEASANT AROUND HERE WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY! I'M GOING TO START A *REIGN OF CRIME* NEVER BEFORE KNOWN TO *MAN!* *EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD* WILL FEEL MY WRATH! I'LL BECOME ***BOSS*** OF THIS CITY, THEN THE *STATE!* --THEN *THE ENTIRE NATION!* ***NOTHING*** CAN STOP ME!
NOW, *TERROR,* ***DIE!***
NOT JUST YET, MADMAN!
UGHHHH!
ANGERED, BEYOND MEASURE, BY POTORO'S INSANE WORDS AND THE THREAT OF A NEW CRIME WAVE, *THE TERROR LEAPS INTO ACTION AGAIN!*
THE TERROR CHARGES!
PLUG HIM! ***PLUG HIM!***
THIS IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE YOU UNDERSTAND!
SLAM
SOCK!
EEOOOWW
AND NOW, POTORO, TO DEAL WITH YOU!
NO, NO! COME BACK, MEN! ***YOU RATS,*** COME BACK! OH-H-H, DON'T HIT ME... ***DON'T---!***
LIKE THE COWARDS THAT THEY ARE, THE GANGSTERS DESERT THEIR LEADER WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH.
NO.. ***NOOOOOO!***
THE TERROR'S OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE IS METED OUT TO POTORO.
AND SO.
..HIS WORK DONE, THE TERROR FADES INTO THE NIGHT, EVER IN SEARCH OF NEW ADVENTURE.

GHOST-BROUGHT JUSTICE

THE evening was dark and rainy. The wet streets were almost deserted except for a few cruising taxi-cabs. The shrieking of the wind and the howling of the beating rain were enough to keep the people of Midvale in their homes where they would be safe, instead of on the streets which were blanketed with darkness and filled with foreboding!

But a person with keen eyes would have seen the lone figure of a man slowly walking down an empty street, trying to make head-way against the rapidly blowing wind and the steadily beating rain. The man carried no umbrella and wore no raincoat. He had on only a suit with the collar turned up and a black slouch hat which he wore low over his eyes. He seemed to be searching for something, for each time he passed a private house he would look at the name on the door, then shake his head and walk on toward the next house.

Finally the man in the rain came to a small house on the edge of town. He looked at the name over the bell with a grunt of pleased surprise and then stepped back to look over the house.

It was a two-story wooden dwelling with only one front door and two windows on the ground floor. "Ha," muttered the man in the rain, "this'll be a cinch of a job!"

Then the man in the rain silently crept up to one of the ground floor windows. His movements were as quiet as those of a jungle beast, stalking a human life. And there was good reason for this quiet, for the man in the rain was also stalking a human life!

Reaching the window, he took out a small, thin blade and forced it under the lock. With a deft twist of his wrist he succeeded in splitting the window lock. Then he gave a glad exclamation and slowly started to force the window up.

When he had raised the window enough to allow him to fit thru the opening, he stopped and mopped his brow. The rain had been beating down upon him for hours and he was drenched to the skin. But still he felt triumphant, for he had reached his goal, and his great moment was near at hand!

Slowly, stealthily, he crept in thru the partially opened window. No jungle cat was more silent—and no jungle beast was more deadly. For nothing is more deadly than a human being who thirsts for blood—and murder!

At last the intruder was in the house. Without stopping to look around he headed for the stairway which lead to the second floor. Reaching it, he climbed upward, two steps at a time. He was eager, anxious, unable to wait, unable to control himself any more. His supreme moment was at hand!

On the second floor he came to a door, and with a glad cry broke it open! There inside the room was the figure of the man he had come to kill!

"Gil Harvey!" cried the man inside. "Wha—what are you doing here? How did you get in? What do—what do you want?"

"You know what I want, Judge!" sneered the intruder. "I want your life!"

"My life!" The old man in the room fell back on his bed, weakly. "Why, you're insane!"

"Maybe I am, Judge. Maybe I got insane from staying in the cell you sentenced me to for 10 years! Judge, I swore that when I got out of jail I'd find you . . . No matter where you were I'd find you and I'd kill you! And that's just what I'm going to do!"

The Judge began to turn a deathly white. "You fool!" he said. "You're a free man again. You're free to begin your life all over and to make something out of it. Don't throw away your only chance for happiness by doing this mad thing! For your own sake as well as mine, don't—"

The other man interrupted him. "O.K., Judge, you've had your say, and now you're going to die!" He took a pearl-handled revolver from his pocket and aimed it at the Judge. "And don't think I'll be caught this time, either! By the time your body is found I'll be on my way to South America! Ha ha, I'll never be caught!"

The Judge looked at the killer with no fear in his iron gray eyes. "You'll be caught, murderer. Mark my words, you'll not escape. I shall return from the dead to mete out your punishment! Mark my words well, for you shall be—"

A pistol shot broke thru the Judge's words and then there was quiet!

Minutes later a lone figure was racing thru the streets of Midvale. Racing madly—racing for his life! "Chee, I didn't think the gat would make that much noise!" he said. "Now the cops are after me! I'll have to get away fast. Oh well, they'll never find me on a night like this!"

On and on raced the murderer. Suddenly he cried aloud—"What's that? It—it's the Judge! No, No, it can't be! I'm imagining things! He couldn't really return from the dead! But there he is—If I could only close my eyes and shut him out! No, I see him anyway! Get away! Leave me alone! I'm just imagining you!"

Gil Harvey was racing up a steep cliff now, balanced perilously along the edge. "A little further and I'll be out of the country!" he shouted. "I'll be free! But—there it is again. That face! He said he'd return from the dead—No, what am I thinking of? It can't be possible! But it's coming closer . . . closer! Get back—get back I say! No, don't come closer! Stay away! You won't get me! Neither you nor the police will get me! I'll move back farther! I'll—YEEOOWW!"

A figure hurtled down the steep cliff, there was a shrill scream, and then nothing but silence broke the night air!

The next day the police examined the crushed body of Gil Harvey. "What made him jump off the cliff?" asked Chief Inspector Connelly. "I don't know," answered Commissioner Smith. "Sometimes the consciences of killers make them do queer things. One thing is certain, ha ha, it certainly wasn't ghosts!"

And so the case was closed as far as the police were concerned. But if he had known all the facts, Commissioner Smith might have asked himself: "Ghosts? I wonder—?"

DAVEY AND THE DEMON

DAVEY
AND THE
DEMON
WHEN YOUNG DAVEY DREW DARED TO EXPLORE THE HAUNTED CAVE HE NEVER DREAMT THAT HE WOULD UNCOVER THE MOST TERRIFYING MENACE THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN! HOW WAS HE TO KNOW THAT BEHIND THE WALL OF STONE LURKED ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL IN *HUMAN FORM*.. THE FORM OF THE **DEMON**
... AND NOW READ ON... IF YOU DARE!
AS OUR STORY OPENS. WE DISCOVER A YOUTHFUL FIGURE STEALTHILY CLIMBING OVER A HIGH STONE WALL. COME LET US FOLLOW HIM. FOR HE WILL LEAD US TO ONE OF THE WORLDS MOST HIDEOUS ADVENTURES.
.. I'LL SHOW THEM THAT THEY CAN'T KEEP ME IN ANY OL' ORPHAN ASYLUM! I'LL RUN AWAY INTO THE **WOODS** AND BE AN EXPLORER - *THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!*

GOLLY, I DIDN'T KNOW THE WOODS WERE SO DARK AT NIGHT!
WHO! WHO-O
WH-WH-WHAT WAS THAT
I'M GONNA GET OUT OF HERE.. MAYBE, I'LL BE SAFE IN THIS CAVE!
WHO-WHO
OHH-H AT THE HOUSE THEY TOLD ME NEVER TO COME HERE.
WHAT A FUNNY LOOKING WALL! I WONDER IF ANYTHING IS BEHIND IT?
HELP ME-HELP ME! I'M IMPRISONED BEHIND THIS WALL.. YOU CAN SAVE ME BY HITTING THE BLACK BOTTOM STONE THREE TIMES WITH YOUR LEFT FOOT!
GEE, SOMEBODY'S BEHIND THERE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.. I'LL H-HELP YOU.
AS DAVEY KICKS THE STONE, THIN BLACK VAPORS OF SMOKE BEGIN TO SEEP INTO THE CAVE
ONE, TWO THREE, THERE
GOLLY! WHAT'S THIS?
2

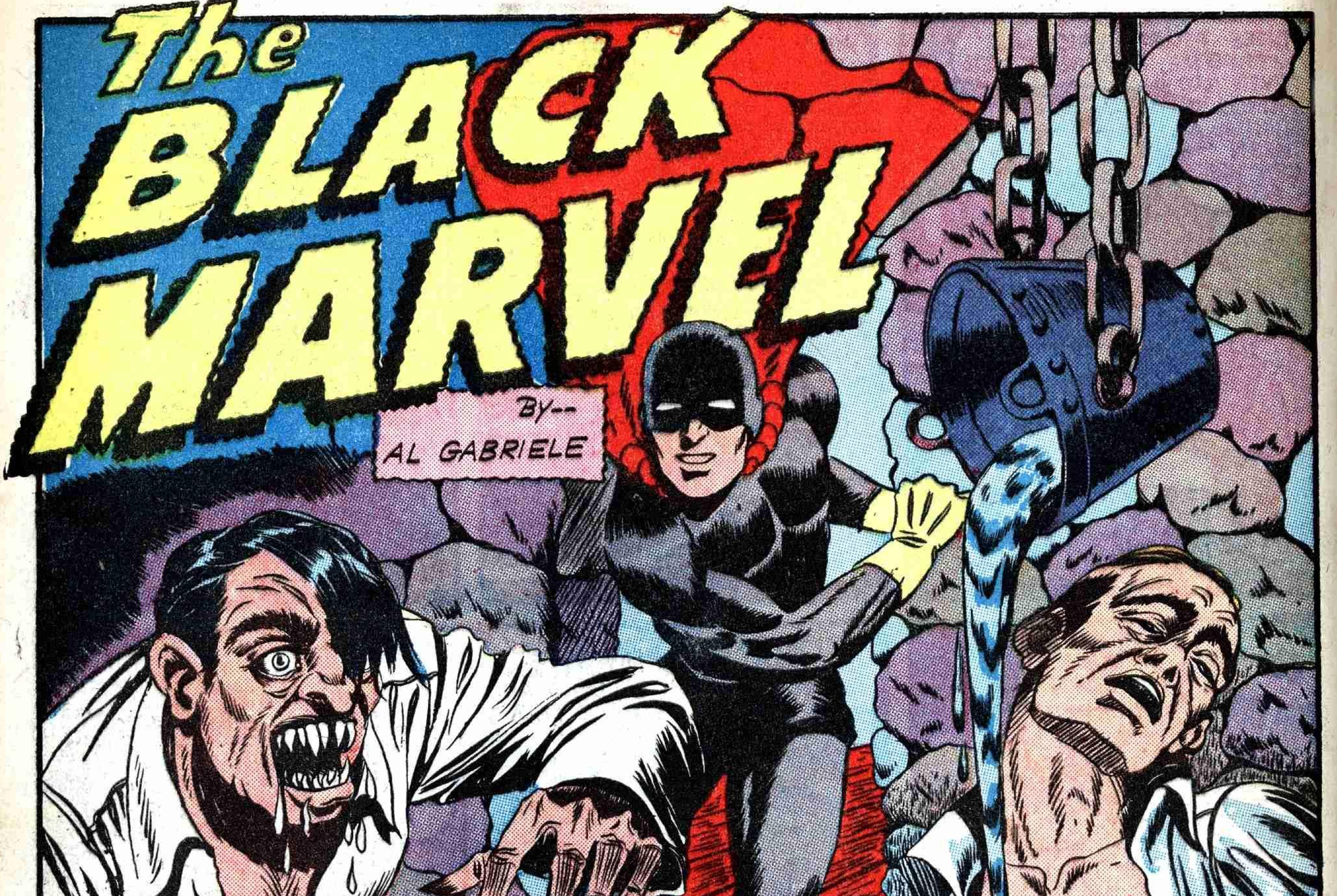
FREE AFTER COUNTLESS CENTURIES I'M FREE! FREE TO TAKE REVENGE ON ALL MANKIND!
W-WHO.. W-WWHAT ARE YOU?
A HORRIBLE FORM APPEARS!
B-BUT HOW DID YOU GET BEHIND THAT STONE WALL!
OH! I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU. WHO AM I? HA- I AM THE DEMON.. I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL EVIL ON EARTH!
I WAS IMPRISONED HERE BY A MAGICIAN IN THE DAYS BEFORE TIME BEGAN! BUT YOU'VE SET ME FREE- NOW I CAN DO HARM TO THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH JUST AS I'VE DONE ON OTHER PLANETS THRUOUT ALL ETERNITY! HOWEVER AS A REWARD TO YOU FOR LIBERATING ME.. I SWEAR NEVER TO HARM YOU- YOU SHALL BE THE ONE PERSON TO ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE
BUT YOU MUSN'T HARM ANYONE! YOU MUSN'T- I WON'T LET YOU! I'LL FIGHT YOU.
TO PROVE TO YOU I'M SINCERE. HERE, TAKE THIS CLOAK, SO LONG AS YOU WEAR IT. MY POWER CAN NEVER HARM YOU.
HA-HA FOOL CHILD! YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO ME!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT- BECAUSE I FREED HIM. BUT I'LL IMPRISON HIM AGAIN.. I SWEAR IT!
LATER.. THE DEMON STANDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A MID-WESTERN CITY
AHA! SO THIS IS THE SORT OF CITIES MEN ARE BUILDING NOW.. IT SHOULDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO DESTROY THIS ONE!
HERE I GO! EEEEEOOWWWWM
3

THIS IS *GREAT*. I'LL KILL AS MANY AS I CAN!
DIE MORTALS **HA-HA**-*HA--- DIE*
GOOD LORD! WHAT'S THAT *MONSTER*?
IT--- IT'S LIKE A *DEMON*!
CAN *NOTHING* STOP IT?
THE DEMON BEGINS TO PERFORM HIS HORRIBLE DEEDS
SUDDENLY
THERE HE IS MEN! THAT'S THE MONSTER I TOLD YOU ABOUT- NOW YOU BELIEVE ME, *DON'T YOU?*
YE GADS! THE YOUNGSTER WAS RIGHT!
FIRE AT WILL, MEN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD YOU EXPECT THOSE LITTLE STICKS TO DO YOU!
YOU LITTLE **BRAT**! TEND TO YOUR OWN AFFAIRS! I'LL KILL YOU TOO!
THE MAGIC CLOAK SERVES TO PROTECT DAVEY..
MY CLOAK..IT *REALLY* PROTECTS ME!
YEOOOWW I FORGOT ABOUT THAT CLOAK!

THESE PELLETS WHICH ARE HITTING ME, *THEY HURT*- MEN NEVER HAD THINGS SUCH AS THESE CENTURIES AGO-
KEEP SHOOTING. YOU'LL LICK HIM YET!
LOOK, HE'S BEGINNING TO *WEAKEN!*
I'LL TEACH YOU TO SHOOT THINGS AT *ME!*
YEOW HELP!
OWW-W
LET GO OF HIM- YOU *COWARD*
DAVEY LEAPS TO THE RESCUE--!
YOU LITTLE --*!- I'LL TEAR YOU APART FOR THIS
OH NO YOU WON'T! NOT SO LONG AS I *WEAR* THIS CLOAK!
STOP.. *OW-W-W* WHAT ARE YOU SHOOTING AT *ME?* **OWW-W**
HA- WE'VE GOT HIM *NOW!*
THEY'VE BEATEN ME.. I DIDN'T EXPECT MEN TO HAVE SUCH POWERFUL WEAPONS! I'LL LEAVE FOR A WHILE-- *BUT*-
THE DEMON RACES AWAY--BEATEN!
I'LL BE BACK, I TOO SHALL INVENT NEW POWERFUL WEAPONS! *I'LL WIPE THE HUMAN RACE OFF THE EARTH*... AND I'LL FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THAT YOUNG BRAT ALSO! SO *WATCH OUT, MORTALS*, FOR I, THE **DEMON**, *SHALL RETURN!*

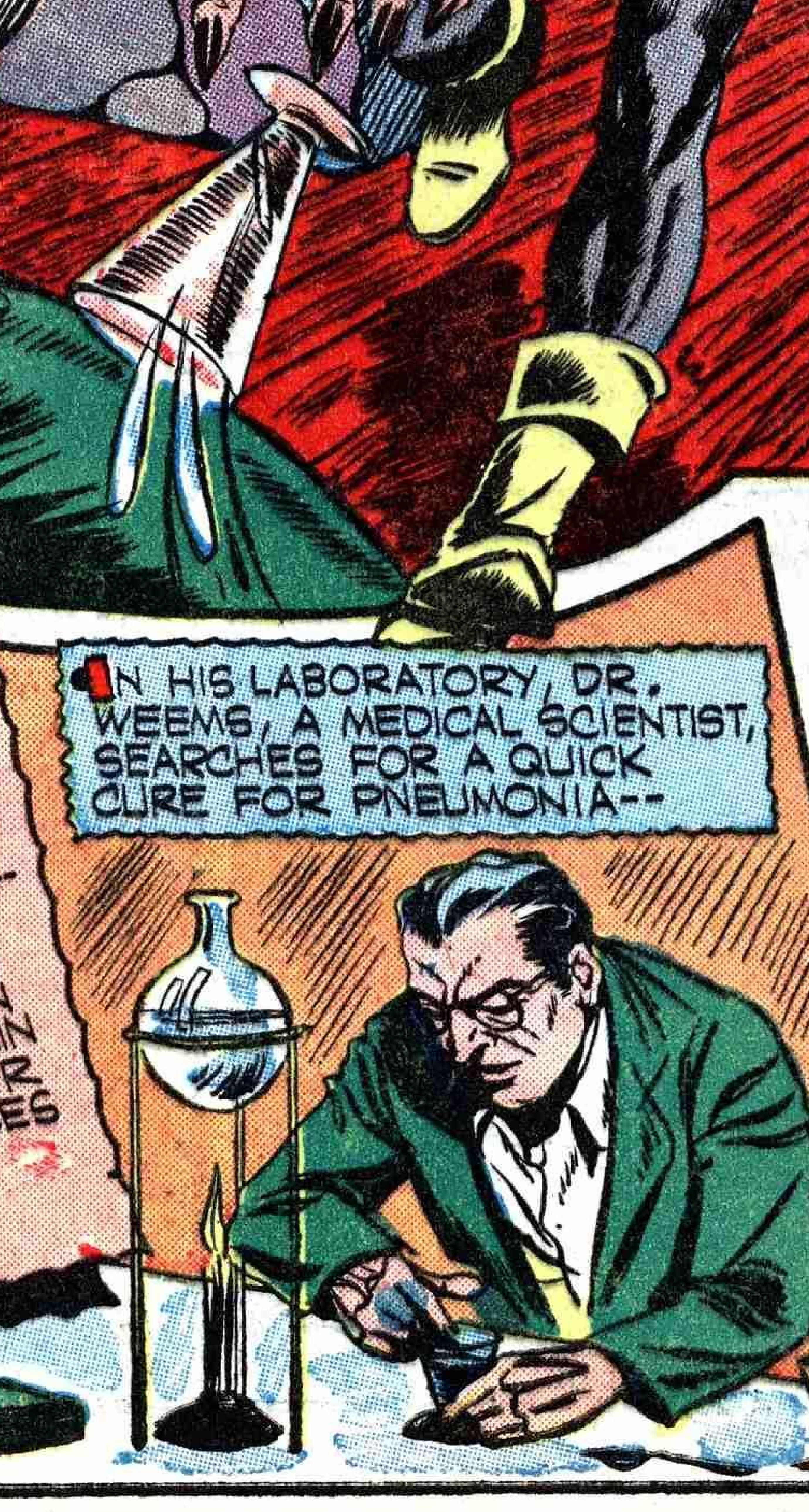
The BLACK MARVEL

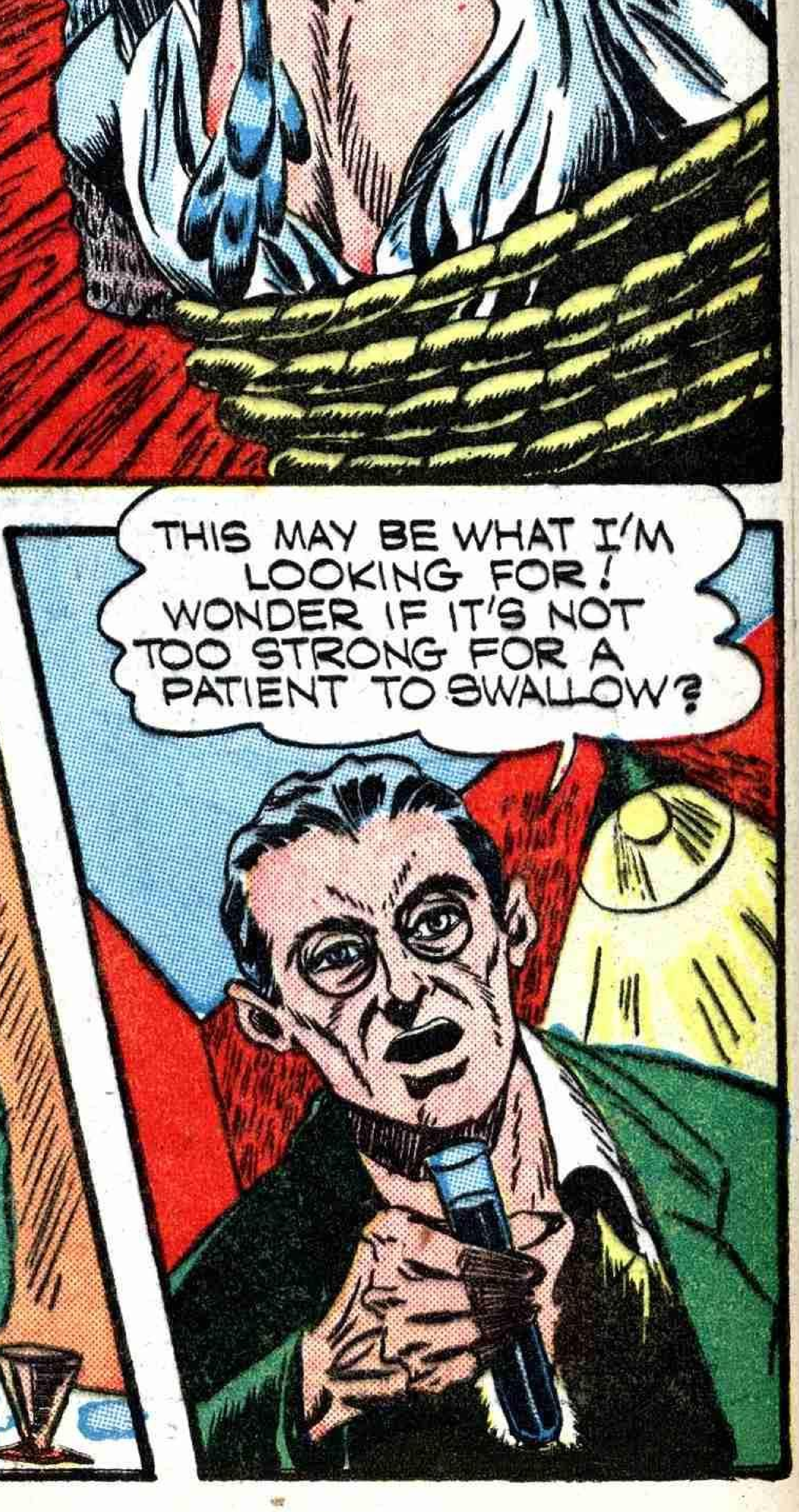
By--
AL GABRIELE



Rx

CRIME AND TERROR HELD THE STAGE WHEN A STRANGE EXPERIMENT MADE A HIDEOUS MONSTER OF A KINDLY DOCTOR-- BUT *The* **BLACK MARVEL**, SWORN TO FIGHT CRIME IN ANY FORM, IS AGAIN VICTORIOUS OVER THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL---


IN HIS LABORATORY, DR. WEEMS, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, SEARCHES FOR A QUICK CURE FOR PNEUMONIA--


THIS MAY BE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR! WONDER IF IT'S NOT TOO STRONG FOR A PATIENT TO SWALLOW?

LIKE SO MANY GREAT MEN OF SCIENCE BEFORE HIM, THE DOCTOR DARES TO DRINK THE POWERFUL POTION, LITTLE DREAMING WHAT THE DREAD RESULTS WILL BE--
A SECOND LATER HIS FEATURES UNDERGO A HORRIBLE CHANGE, AS THE HUMANITY-LOVING DOCTOR BECOMES A HIDEOUS MONSTER!
INSTEAD OF A SCIENTIST DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE OF MANKIND, THE MAN STANDING IN THE LABORATORY NOW IS A MONSTER WHO HATES THE HUMAN RACE... A FIEND WHOSE BRAIN IS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF MURDER, ROBBERY AND ALL EVIL.....FOR DUE TO A MISCALCULATION, INSTEAD OF BEING THE CURE THE DOCTOR HAD HOPED FOR, THE MIXTURE IS A POTION WHICH TWISTS THE BRAIN AND BODY!---
WEALTH AND POWER SHALL BE MINE!
GATHERING BLOODTHIRSTY CRIMINALS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE UNDERWORLD, THE DEMON DOCTOR BECOMES THEIR FIENDISH LEADER-- KNOWN TO THEM ONLY AS *THE GRINNER*--
BEFORE I'M THROUGH WE'RE GOING TO OWN THIS TOWN--NO JOB IS TOO BIG FOR ME, BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING I WON'T DARE DO--
ATTA BOY, CHIEF!
CRIME AFTER CRIME ROCKS THE CITY AS THE GRINNER CARRIES OUT HIS MAD PLAN!
BANK
HA-HA! THIS ONE WAS TOO EASY!
RUTHLESS MURDER BECOMES COMMON PLACE--
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAD UNTIL TODAY TO PAY UP!
WE'LL BE BACK FOR MORE SOME TIME!

NOT A BAD HAUL, BO! CHICKEN FEED COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE LINED UP NEXT--
SPILL IT, BOSS!
AN OLD SAP NAMED DILLON OWNS A TEXAS OIL PROPERTY WORTH MILLIONS. ROCKY GAVE HIMSELF AWAY WHEN HE APPEARED TOO EAGER TO BUY THE DEED. THEREFORE, WE'LL HAVE TO USE MORE VIGOROUS METHODS!
I DID MY BEST, BOSS!
THE NEXT DAY, THE GRINNER AND HIS MEN CALL ON DILLON!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT!
THE DEED TO YOUR PROPERTY
THE DEED IS MINE TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO IT!
I HAVEN'T EH? GRAB HIM, BOYS!
NOW--WHERE'S THAT DEED?
PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T! I'LL TELL YOU!
YOU'LL FIND IT IN...
WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF LIGHTNING, A FIGURE IN BLACK RACES TO THE OLD MAN'S RESCUE--
YOU FELLOWS WANT TO KNOW TOO MUCH!
IT'S THE BLACK MARVEL! LET'S BEAT IT!
STOP HIM, FOOLS!

BUT THE GRINNER ESCAPES...
SLIPPERY LIKE ALL WORMS!
THE BLACK MARVEL! YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE!
NO TIME FOR THAT! I'VE BEEN ON THE GRINNER'S TRAIL FOR DAYS AND CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM NOW!
QUICK AS A FLASH THE **BLACK MARVEL** IS OUT OF THE HOUSE AND AFTER THE GRINNER!!!
THERE HE GOES!
THE BLACK MARVEL'S AMAZING SPEED ENABLES HIM TO KEEP THE GRINNER'S CAR IN SIGHT!!!
I'LL CATCH THAT LUG!
BUT SUDDENLY BOTH CAR AND DRIVER DISAPPEAR AS THOUGH INTO THIN AIR...
THAT CERTAINLY WAS AN AMAZING FADEOUT DR. WEEMS HOUSE!
THIS WILL MAKE ME THAT MILK TOAST DR. WEEMS AGAIN. IT'LL KEEP THEM GUESSING!
WHILE INSIDE THE HOUSE--
THE GRINNER BECOMES HIS FORMER SELF AGAIN...
I HEAR THE BELL RINGING - IT MUST BE A PATIENT!
PARDON ME! I THOUGHT A MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR CAME IN HERE!
YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN THERE ARE NO PATIENTS IN MY OFFICE NOW!
LATER...
HA-HA! MY ACCIDENTAL EXPERIMENT HAS GIVEN ME POWER KNOWN TO NO OTHER MAN!

THE KIDNAPPING WAS NEATLY DONE. NOW SLIP THIS NOTE UNDER THE OLD LADY'S DOOR. SHE'LL TURN OVER THE DEED NOW!
O.K., BOSS!
TURNING INTO THE GRINNER AGAIN, THE CRIME-MASTER GIVES NEW ORDERS TO ONE OF HIS EVIL HENCHMEN!
OUTSIDE DILLON'S HOUSE, A BLACK-GARBED FIGURE WATCHES WITH EYES THAT MISS NOTHING!
WHILE I WAS CHASING THE GRINNER, HIS MEN KIDNAPPED DILLON! BUT THIS APE WILL LEAD ME TO HIM!
THE BLACK MARVEL FOLLOWS THE GRINNER'S HENCHMAN TO AN OLD WAREHOUSE!
THEY'RE GOING TO GET ANOTHER SURPRISE!
I HAVE AN IDEA THIS WIRE IS CHARGED!
BUT WHOEVER RIGGED IT UP FORGOT HIS PLIERS!
THAT'S ONE TRICK THAT WON'T WORK NOW!
I SEE THEY'VE GOT YOU TIED UP IN KNOTS AGAIN!
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT. I'M GETTING THE GRINNER THIS TIME!
YES, BUT HURRY! THEY'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!
IN ANOTHER ROOM IN THE WAREHOUSE!!
AS SOON AS THE OLD LADY SENDS THE DEED OVER, STICK DILLON IN THE WEIGHTED SACK AND DROP HIM INTO THE RIVER. THAT'LL KEEP HIM FROM TALKING!

BUT A FIGHTING, CHARGING BUNDLE OF BLACK-GARBED DYNAMITE BREAKS INTO THE ROOM!
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU AND SO DO THE POLICE!
I COULD CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG AND YOU'D DESERVE IT FOR THE CRIMES YOU'VE COMMITTED. BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR YOU!
LET'S GET OUT! IT'S THE **BLACK MARVEL**! HE'LL CROAK US ALL!
IN THEIR EXCITEMENT THE THUGS TRIP AND FORM A CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE ENDS OF CHARGED WIRES...
THE SIGHT OF THE MEN BEING ELECTROCUTED MAKES THE BLACK MARVEL DROP THE GRINNER...
IT WAS THEIR OWN IDEA BUT IT'S AN AWFUL WAY TO DIE!
The GRINNER SEES HIS CHANCE!
YOU MAY FORGET ABOUT ME PERMANENTLY, NOW, **MR. BLACK MARVEL**!
WHAT THE --

THE BLACK MARVEL CATCHES AT A HANGING CROW-BAR, BREAKING HIS FALL!
THAT WAS QUITE A DROP!
YOU ARE TO DIE A VERY INTERESTING DEATH MY FRIEND. A DEATH THAT WILL LEAVE NO TRACE OF YOUR POWERFUL BODY!
WALLS OF STEEL SLOWLY CLOSE IN ON THE *BLACK MARVEL!*
THIS IS GOING TO MAKE THINGS KIND OF CLOSE!
THE IRON CROW-BAR, HELD BETWEEN THE DEADLY, CLOSING WALLS, CAUSES THEM TO SPLIT AS THEY DRAW CLOSER--THE BLACK MARVEL IS SAVED!
THE BLACK MARVEL PLACES THE CROW-BAR AGAINST THE CONTRACTING WALLS--WITH HIS VERY LIFE AT STAKE!
HERE GOES!
THAT DOES IT. I CAN LEAVE NOW.
THE *GRINNER* THOUGHT HE FINISHED ME THAT TIME. HE'S PROBABLY MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO GET THAT DEED!
THIS TIME DILLON TOO WILL DIE AND I WILL OWN THE RICHEST OIL PROPERTY IN THE COUNTRY-- --OH-OH THERE'S THE *BLACK MARVEL* AGAIN!
THE *GRINNER* SEES HIS PURSUER AND SHOOTS..
DIE! YOU DEVIL! DIE!

But THE BLACK MARVEL WEAVES ABOUT DODGING THE GRINNER'S BULLETS!
AGAIN THE GRINNER FLEES IN A CAR.
THIS TIME I'LL LEAVE OUT THE FORMAL ENTRANCE.
DR. WEEMS
The BLACK MARVEL FINDS A CELLAR WINDOW OPEN...
A LOOK AROUND MIGHT TELL MORE THAN JUST ASKING DR. WEEMS!
A PRETTY BIG LAB FOR A SMALL PRACTITIONER!
DRINKING THAT ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU THIS TIME!
THERE'S A LOT OF FIGHT IN YOU - BUT NOT ENOUGH!
AS THE MAD KILLER IS STRUCK BY THE BLACK MARVEL, HIS HEAD HITS THE STONY CELLAR WALL, BRINGING HIS TERRIBLE CAREER TO AN END!
IN DEATH, THE GRINNER IS AGAIN THE KINDLY DR. WEEMS.
THESE NOTES TELL THE STORY. ONE OF THE INGREDIENTS HE COMPOUNDED WAS THE CAUSE OF A GOOD MAN BECOMING A KILLER!

the BLAZING SKULL

PRICELESS MASTERPIECES DISAPPEAR FROM A GREAT MUSEUM ---- AND COLD BLOODED MURDER FOLLOWS.. UNTIL THE *BLAZING SKULL*- NEMESIS OF THE ENEMIES OF CIVILIZATION .. *STEPS IN*---
THE COLD RAYS OF THE MORNING SUN BRING TO THE GUARDS OF A GREAT ART MUSEUM THE STARTLING REALITY OF A DARING THEFT
THE PICTURES ARE GONE! THEY'VE BEEN **CUT** FROM THEIR FRAMES!
HOW COULD ANYBODY HAVE GOTTEN IN?
---AND A GRUESOME *MURDER*
LOOK! IT'S MIKE, HE'S **DEAD!!**

HIS NECK IS *BROKEN!*
IT-- *IT'S HORRIBLE!*
THIS IS TERRIBLE. OUR MOST VALUABLE PAINTINGS-- *BUT* THEY DIDN'T TAKE THEM ALL-- *WHAT IF THEY* **COME** *BACK!*
WE'LL HAVE A DOUBLE GUARD POSTED ALL AROUND AND OUTSIDE TONIGHT--- *NOBODY* WILL GET IN THIS TIME!
THAT NIGHT--
TWO MORE HOURS AND IT WILL BE *LIGHT!*
AND OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM--
NOBODY GOT PAST HERE TONIGHT--
YET--IN THE MORNING--
THEY'RE ALL KNOCKED OUT!
IT LOOKS LIKE AN *ARMY* WAS LOOSE IN HERE!
HOLY CATS- THE GREAT *REMBRANDT* PAINTING IS *GONE!!-- BUT HOW? AND* **WHO?**
AS DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM--I DEMAND THAT THE POLICE *DO SOMETHING* ABOUT THIS **AT ONCE!** IT'S AN OUTRAGE THAT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN UNDER THE NOSES OF THE *POLICE!*
WE ONLY HAD A GLANCE AT THE *THIEF*--HE MUST HAVE BEEN A ***GIANT***--*HE KNOCKED US COLD BEFORE WE COULD GET AT HIM!*

WHILE IN HIS PENTHOUSE APARTMENT HIGH OVER THE ROOFS OF MANHATTAN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARK TODD LEARNS OF THE ROBBERIES.
DAILY VIE
BURGLARS AGAIN STEAL PRICELESS PAINTINGS...
MYSTERY ROBBERIES PUZZLES POLICE
THINGS ARE BAD ENOUGH IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT HAVING THE *FEW REMAINING* BEAUTIFUL THINGS DISAPPEAR! PERHAPS THE BLAZING SKULL SHOULD REFRESH HIS *ART EDUCATION* WITH A TRIP TO THE **MUSEUM**.
THAT NIGHT AS THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED A VISITOR REMAINS BEHIND.
NOW TO SEE WHAT GOES ON HERE NIGHTS!
WHILE THE GUARDS ARE CHANGING SHIFTS.
SUDDENLY, THE BLAZING SKULL APPEARS ON THE SCENE.
YOU'RE KIND OF *EARLY* TONIGHT, *AREN'T YOU?*
??!
THE AMAZED GUARDS RETURN TO FIND A STRANGE SCENE!
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM- **GET 'EM** BOYS!
-- GOOD LORD!! A ***BLAZING SKULL!***
KONK!
THE GIANT *ESCAPES*...WHILE THE GUARDS CONCENTRATE ON THE DESPERATE SKULL!
YOU FOOLS, YOU'RE LETTING THE KILLER *GET AWAY!*

NEXT DAY.. IN THE SCULPTURE COURT OF THE MUSEUM.. MARK TODD ATTEMPTS TO FIT THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE
IT'S FUNNY.. THERE'S NO WAY OF GETTING IN OR OUT AT NIGHT WITHOUT BEING SEEN., YET THAT BIG FELLOW WAS RIGHT ON THIS SPOT!
OH, OH.. THERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING.. THIS STATUE WAS MOVED AND REPLACED!
THAT NIGHT BEFORE CLOSING TIME..
I SURE HAD TO WORK FAST TO MAKE A STATUE OUT OF MYSELF.
AS THE MUSEUM QUIETS DOWN FOR THE NIGHT..
I HAD AN IDEA THAT MY TRICK WASN'T ORIGINAL
NO PICTURES FOR YOU TONIGHT, LITTLE MAN!
??
I'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS
NOT THAT WAY- YOU WON'T
THIS OUGHT TO PUT EVEN YOU TO SLEEP.

I DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN THOSE TWO GUARDS TO DEATH! I'D BETTER HIDE
HE'S OUT **COLD**! I *WONDER* WHO GOT HIM!
I HOPE IT'S *NOT* THAT *BLAZING SKULL* GUY.. I WOULDN'T WANT TO RUN INTO *HIM*!
WITH HIS GREAT STRENGTH THE GIANT QUICKLY RECOVERS.
OUT OF MY WAY! YOU LITTLE **SLUGS**
I'D BETTER GET OUT OF *SIGHT*! THERE'LL BE A MOB OF THEM AROUND IN A *MINUTE*!
IN THE MUSEUM'S BASEMENT THE SKULL STALKS HIS QUARRY
NOW I'VE LOST SIGHT OF *HIM*!
AS THE BLAZING SKULL PASSES A LARGE PACKING CASE
NO YOU DON'T, BUDDY-**OVER YOU GO**!
...BUT THE *BLAZING SKULL* HAS AN INSTINCTIVE WARNING OF DANGER

I COULDN'T SLEEP AT HOME.. I HAD TO COME DOWN TO SEE IF ANYTHING IS *HAPPENING!*
PLENTY'S BEEN HAPPENING!
..MEANWHILE DIRECTOR HAWKINS, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM, MAKES A SURPRISE VISIT!
...*FOOTSTEPS*.. I'LL PUT THIS BABY BACK FOR AWHILE. *I WONDER WHO IT IS!*
WE'D BETTER GO UP AGAIN, *SIR,* SOMETHING *MAY* HAVE HAPPENED UP HERE!
PERHAPS WE'D BETTER!
MEANWHILE..
THE OLD BOY SEEMED TO BE SNOOPING AROUND FOR SOME THING THAT SEEMED TO BE IN ORDER
AH! A PRETTY FUNNY PLACE FOR A TELEPHONE..! I WONDER WHOSE PRIVATE WIRE THIS IS?!
THE BLAZING SKULL IMITATES THE BOOMING VOICE OF THE *GIANT!* AND THE FAKE HERCULES IS DISCOVERED, *NOT* OPERATING ALONE!
HELLO! IS THE *CHIEF* THERE?
...NO HE'S OUT! IS THIS BIG JOE? I HEARD SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
IN A TRUNK MARKED FOR SHIPMENT THE NEXT DAY,_ THE BLAZING SKULL FINDS SOME OF THE MISSING CANVASSES
THAT WAS A *GOOD HUNCH* ABOUT THE CHIEF., AND *THIS* PROVES IT'S AN *INSIDE JOB* ALL AROUND!
THERE WON'T BE *ANY MORE* ROBBERIES AT THE MUSEUM AFTER **TONIGHT.**
6

BIG JOE JUST PHONED-- HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE HERE-- AND THEN HUNG UP!
IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS JUST THERE! SOMEBODY KNOCKED HIM OUT, AND LEFT HIM IN THE BIG BOX-- I WAS ABLE TO GET A GLANCE AT HIM-- *HE WAS OUT* ***COLD!***
--WHILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUSEUM, DIRECTOR HAWKINS LEARNS OF THE MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL--
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* CHIEF!
THAT **BIG LUMMOX** HAS BUNGLED UP THINGS, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE HIM AROUND TO SQUEAL!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL THAT *PHONY HERCULES,* MR. DIRECTOR-- I *KNOW* THE WHOLE STORY *ANYWAY!*
A ***RED GHOST!!***
THE DIRECTOR SHOOTS, BUT IS TOO FRIGHTENED TO AIM STRAIGHT.
YOU NEED PRACTICE. FIRST, I SHALL *REMOVE* YOUR GLASSES.
---ONE ON THE JAW FOR EACH OF YOU!
SOCK!
A COUPLE OF PRESENTS FOR YOU, SARGEANT!
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS!
I'LL CONFESS EVERYTHING. ALL I ASK IS THAT,. THAT TERRIBLE BLAZING SKULL BE KEPT AWAY, FROM ME.. I HAD THE GIANT, *BIG JOE,* STEAL THE PAINTINGS--- THEN THEY WERE SHIPPED TO A PLACE I HAVE IN THE COUNTRY. TO BE KEPT UNTIL IT WAS SAFE TO SELL THEM.. I'LL RETURN THEM ALL, ONLY PLEASE KEEP THAT *BLAZING SKULL AWAY.*
FOLLOW THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF THE **BLAZING SKULL** IN **MYSTIC COMICS**

Smashing THRU AGAIN!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

THE MAGAZINE YOU PROCLAIMED *the* KING OF COMICS!

No 9

The GREAT, NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS, ALLIED WITH NEWER, MORE AMAZING STORIES THAN EVER!

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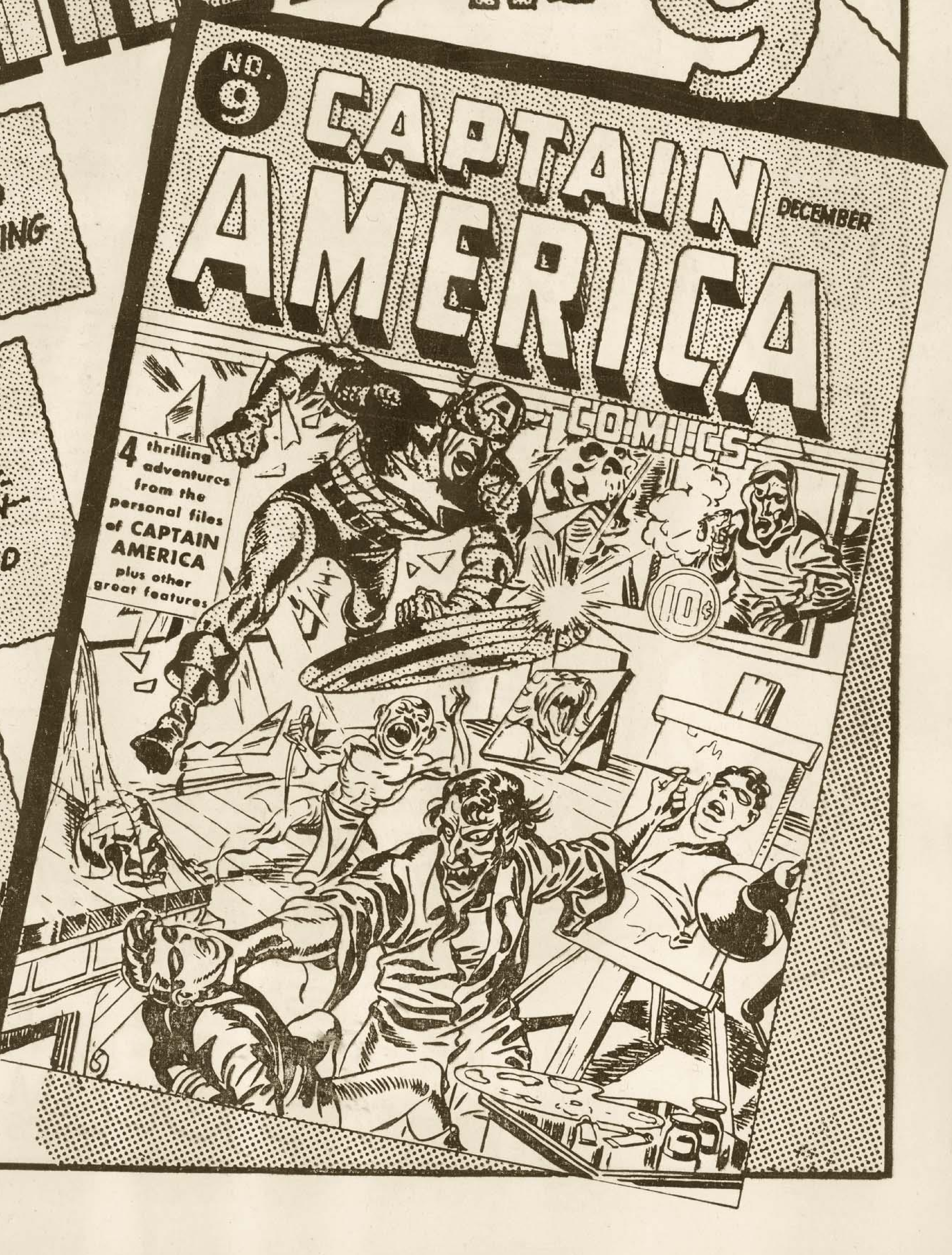
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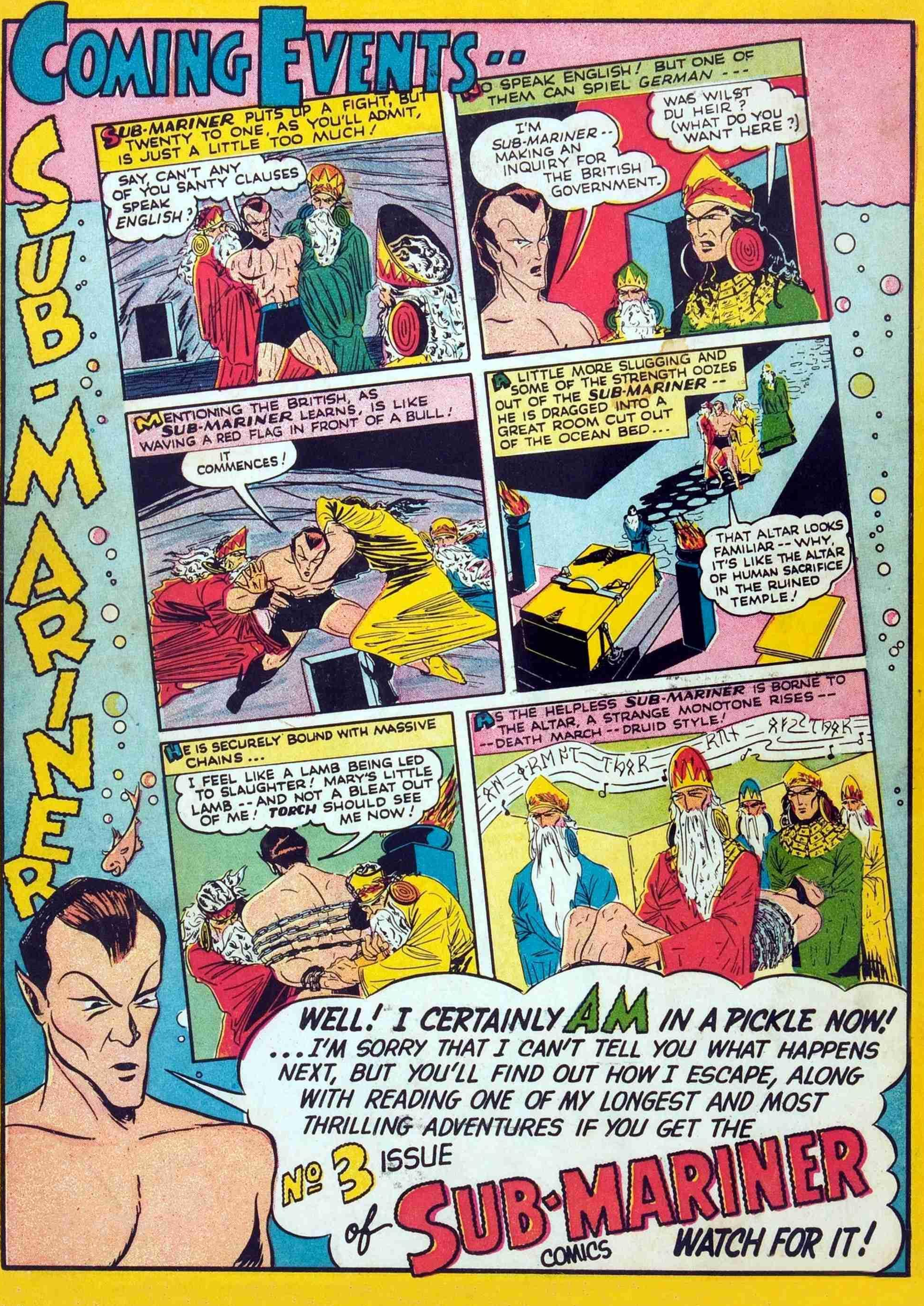
DON'T MISS THIS BIG ISSUE!!

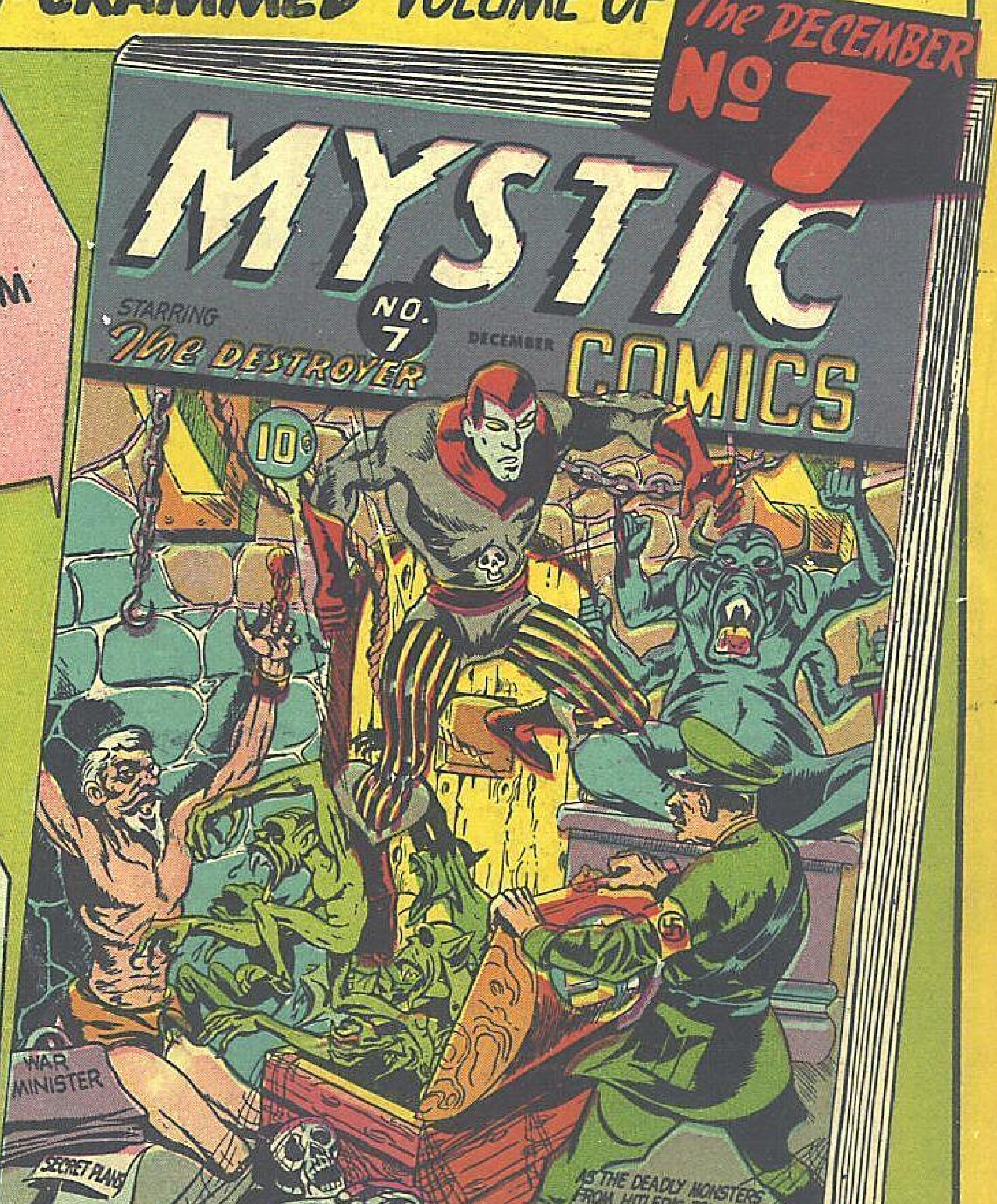

COMING EVENTS..
SUB-MARINER
SUB-MARINER PUTS UP A FIGHT, BUT TWENTY TO ONE, AS YOU'LL ADMIT, IS JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH!
SAY, CAN'T ANY OF YOU SANTY CLAUSES SPEAK ENGLISH?
NO SPEAK ENGLISH! BUT ONE OF THEM CAN SPIEL GERMAN ---
I'M SUB-MARINER -- MAKING AN INQUIRY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
WAS WILST DU HEIR? (WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?)
MENTIONING THE BRITISH, AS SUB-MARINER LEARNS, IS LIKE WAVING A RED FLAG IN FRONT OF A BULL!
IT COMMENCES!
A LITTLE MORE SLUGGING AND SOME OF THE STRENGTH OOZES OUT OF THE SUB-MARINER -- HE IS DRAGGED INTO A GREAT ROOM CUT OUT OF THE OCEAN BED...
THAT ALTAR LOOKS FAMILIAR -- WHY, IT'S LIKE THE ALTAR OF HUMAN SACRIFICE IN THE RUINED TEMPLE!
HE IS SECURELY BOUND WITH MASSIVE CHAINS ...
I FEEL LIKE A LAMB BEING LED TO SLAUGHTER! MARY'S LITTLE LAMB -- AND NOT A BLEAT OUT OF ME! TORCH SHOULD SEE ME NOW!
AS THE HELPLESS SUB-MARINER IS BORNE TO THE ALTAR, A STRANGE MONOTONE RISES -- --DEATH MARCH -- DRUID STYLE!
WELL! I CERTAINLY AM IN A PICKLE NOW! ...I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, BUT YOU'LL FIND OUT HOW I ESCAPE, ALONG WITH READING ONE OF MY LONGEST AND MOST THRILLING ADVENTURES IF YOU GET THE
No 3 ISSUE of SUB-MARINER COMICS
WATCH FOR IT!

The BOOK YOU WANT!

The STORIES YOU DEMANDED

The EXCITEMENT YOU LOVE

ALL BROUGHT TOGETHER IN THE ***NEW, LARGE, ACTION-CRAMMED*** VOLUME OF


The DECEMBER
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The WITNESS
BLACK MARVEL
BLAZING SKULL
The TERROR